

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Britt Demands City Not Monitor Bathhouse Sex

Silence Broken Two Months After Health Director Announces Ban

by George Mendenhall

Supervisor Harry Britt proposed this week that the city public health director be denied the right to monitor or halt sexual activity in steam baths. This was two months after Health Director Mervyn Silverman declared that he would move to end such activity in an attempt to help combat the AIDS epidemic. In those two months, Britt now claims, he was always opposed to any government-imposed bathhouse regulations. What baffles many in the Gay community is why Britt did not take that position in a loud and public way after the Silverman decision in March.

A NEWS ANALYSIS

Silverman revealed at that time that he did not have the medical evidence correlating AIDS with bathhouse attendance. Britt said that to this day he has never seen such evidence.

Silverman issued a decree on April 9 that he would not close the steam baths but would order that sexual activity be halted in such businesses. Britt did not follow with a public statement about the decision. He did not call a press conference to express his opposition, nor did he address Gay organizations to oppose the decision. Many Gay activists concluded that because of his silence, he supported the Silverman move. Bathhouse owners were openly angry at Britt and publicly attacked him for his refusal to publicly oppose the Silverman plan.

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Britt at Alice B. Toklas meeting.
(Photo: Rink)

The supervisor told *Bay Area Reporter* that he consistently told Silverman in March that he would not support a closing of the baths unless medical doctors concluded that it was a necessary course of action. He said

KKK Reported to March Against Gays at Demo Convention

Police Confused About Permit Being Issued

by Allen White

Conflicting reports are being heard at the Hall of Justice regarding a reported march by the Ku Klux Klan against Gays at the Democratic National Convention. Officer John Hennessey, a spokesperson for Police Chief Con Murphy, stated that "irregardless of any reports, the Klan does not have a permit to march in San Francisco during the time of the convention."

Hennessey labeled a report by *San Francisco Examiner* writer Andrew Ross "erroneous." The *Examiner* reported on Tuesday that Bill Albers, the head of a Modesto-based Klan organization, had gained a police permit to march on Tuesday, July 17, the second day of the convention. Ross told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he was quoting a police inspector in his story and that he could back up his report with other sources.

Police officials were able to convince the Klan at meetings earlier this year not to march at the convention. Tom Dixon, a police inspector, told the *Examiner* that Chief Murphy said that

"the group wouldn't get any protection and they were going to get their asses kicked."

In fact, there have been dozens of groups planning to demonstrate at the convention. The position of the police, according to Officer Hennessey, has been to attempt to create a dialogue with all planning demonstrations.

The center of this current controversy is Bill Albers, who reportedly heads a Ku Klux Klan chapter in Modesto. There are three Albers listed in the phone book and one is related to the Klan head. The woman contacted by the *Bay Area Reporter*

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Why is the federal government persecuting Richard Longstaff? Find out . . . p. 2

Castro Dog Show upstaged by audience — photos and story p. 10-11

S.F. International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival — a detailed schedule p. 22

'La Cage aux Folles' is good ol' American musical comedy — review p. 27



Now we know why the Castro Street Dog Show is so popular. For more on this year's, see Allen White's story on page 10.

(Photo: Rink)

IN THIS ISSUE

National March on July 15

City Offers Stage for Gay Marchers' Demo Convention Showdown

by George Mendenhall

The billboards are up in four BART stations and advertisements announcing the event are running in Gay newspapers across the nation. Endorsements have come from numerous national organizations (including the National Organization for Women and the National Gay Task Force). Now, Mayor Dianne Feinstein has pledged that the city will erect the stage and provide the sound system.

One day before the opening of the Democratic National Convention — Sunday, July 15 — the television networks will be filming thousands of people who will assemble in front of Moscone Center here for the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Organizers only need sunny skies to clinch the success of the event.

"There has been more favorable response to this event," co-chair Paul Boneberg emphasizes, "than there was for the national march in Washington, D.C., five years ago. Our office here has been overwhelmed with mail, telephone calls, and enthusiastic volunteers. The only thing we need now is more money to send out more literature and finish the logistic details — like renting walkie-talkies."

Why have a march and demonstration? Organizers emphasize that Democratic presidential debates have not publicly addressed the Gay Rights issues. Boneberg stresses, "All of the candidates have ignored our repeated requests for their support for this march. We must put our issues into the public arena. The media coverage of our event will do just that."

Demands being made at the march will include a call for massive federal AIDS funding, the passage of ERA, a presidential order ending discrimination in the federal government based on sexual orientation, the elimination of discrimination against Lesbians and Gay people in child custody cases, and additional social services for Lesbian/Gay youth, seniors, prisoners, disabled, and low-income people.

(Continued on pag 2)

Hotel Tax Fund Change Would Give Gay Arts Groups More Money

by Allen White

Thousands of dollars could become available to various Gay organizations in San Francisco through a proposal now being considered to change distribution of hotel tax money. Funding to arts groups from the publicity and advertising portion of the hotel tax fund would increase from the current 12 percent to 17.5 percent. The increase is approximately \$1.7 million.

Currently a wide range of Gay cultural activities receive money through the Hotel Tax Fund, ranging from the annual Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Theatre Rhinoceros to the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the Lesbian/Gay Film Festival.

The changes are part of a proposal by Supervisor Harry Britt to increase funding to these groups at a time when many are in financial crisis. The modifications will benefit virtually all the groups covered by the fund.

Cuts in government funding, combined with rising rents, materials, and labor costs, Britt said, have already forced some smaller groups out of business or have reduced their performing schedules. He has been joined by Supervisor Louise Renne,

who has also been vocal in past weeks regarding the crisis facing performing arts groups.

There is also provision in his proposal before the supervisors for an additional 1.5% to be allocated for one-time-only promotional events and parades. The money is generated by a 9.75 percent tax on San Francisco hotel rooms. This tax yielded \$35 million in revenues last year, of which 12 percent, or \$3.6 million, was allocated to nonprofit cultural and promotional groups.

The Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration currently receives about \$13,000 and if the legislation passes, that slice of the tax fund pie could increase to about \$18,000. Passage of the proposed tax increase

(Continued on page 4)

Deportation Possible

Why Feds are Persecuting Richard Longstaff

Gays are 'Psychopaths' Says Immigration Service

by Charles Linebarger

Richard Longstaff is a 44 year old man with dark hair and brown eyes and the look of someone who has stayed awake a few too many nights lately worrying about his future. He is the British man who has been living in the United States for 19 years and who is presently fighting an attempt by the Department of Immigration to have him deported. He began a press conference at the National Gay Rights Advocates offices last week by saying he had been barraged by reporters who have asked him to repeat over and over the same story: how and why it came about that the federal government has singled him out for deportation for the crime of being a Gay man.

"I really want to try to be upbeat," he said. "if you'd been through what I have during the last week you'd know what I mean."

He visited the US embassy in England 19 years ago to obtain a visa to the US. He was asked whether he was a "psychopathic personality" (Gay), Longstaff recalls. Of course, like anyone else he answered in the negative. As far as he was aware he wasn't a psychopath.

He was admitted to the US. In the course of the next 19 years Longstaff became a fundraiser behind the scenes for various Gay organizations (in Texas, where he lives) and went on a Gay operated cruise at one point.



Richard Longstaff (Photo: Rink)

In the mid-seventies he began the paperwork to become a naturalized US citizen. At a subsequent interview with officials of the Immigration Service he was asked several times whether he was Gay. He was honest and answered yes. His very honesty was the tripwire which brought the weight of the Feds down on him.

Now Longstaff is fighting for his right to remain in the United States.

Richard Longstaff has been an incredibly successful businessman and citizen of his state and of the Gay community. It is almost as if his very success has been his undoing. In a way that is strangely reminiscent of the experiences of the Jews in Europe or the Chinese in Southeast Asia, his success has been too obvious and his support of the Gay community has been too useful to that community to allow him to continue his life quietly.

Nineteen years ago Longstaff immigrated to Texas, he said, with \$300 in his pocket. For a while he worked for Braniff Airlines loading baggage. He saved some money and opened a small Gay oriented boutique in what was to become the main Gay drag of Dallas. He parlayed this into two huge Gay stores — both named the Union Jack in Dallas and Houston that are

"ten times the size of anything on Castro street."

"You can't do what I've done in business and have much time left for recreation," Longstaff said. "I go home in the evening and vegetate, I'm so exhausted." But he has had time for the Gay community. He was in at the creation of the Dallas Business Alliance of 30 Gay businesses (the Gold Pages). He was advertising in the Gay media in Texas back in 1974, years before other businesses like him were willing to do so, he remembers. But mainly he has been involved politically in a financial way, using his business acumen to raise funds for Gay organizations in Texas.

"I've done drag shows, muscle shows, everything. I've even raffled off jock straps," Longstaff said proudly, "but we got the money." The money in this case was the financing of the victorious Gay campaign to have the Texas sodomy law overturned in the courts.

Longstaff was the first person to enter a float in the Dallas Gay Parade (1979) — (Houston's first Gay Parade came a year later, and Austin, the site of the liberal University of Texas, will have its first Gay Parade this year!)

"What makes America good is the people," Longstaff said, "I don't even think the press reflects this country. Every-

body's been so good to me in this country. And I've been here so long that I'm probably more Texan than anything. England's now a foreign country to me."

Asked why he had applied for naturalization Longstaff answered, "I wanted to be able to vote. I would have preferred to remain a private person. My name was never in print as a supporter of Gay rights etc. But even though I'm a reluctant test case, I'm glad about the effect this had and will have."

Being in the forefront of the battle for Gay rights could exact a heavy price from Longstaff. "If the government is able to deport me I will have to sell my businesses at whatever price I can get. And if I have to leave the country, I don't know what I'd do at my age. It's been 19 years since I lived in England. I don't know what the laws are there or how I would make my living."

The National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) are attempting to have a private bill passed in Congress which will make a special case of Longstaff's predicament with the Immigration Service and allow him to remain in the United States. Letters and cards to your Congressional representatives and Senators might help. A low-key telephone blitz to the White House couldn't hurt either. ■

Gay March

(Continued from page 1)

PLANS FINALIZED

The police department and the mayor have agreed to finance and place the stage in Moscone plaza. The city's reasoning is that other groups want to also use the same area for demonstrations and it is easier to have one stage than six or seven stages. The police department has issued the march permit and final negotiations are concluding in regard to the permit for the plaza.

The first contingent of the march will begin at 3 p.m. at Castro and 18th Streets and then move along 19th Street to Dolores Park where several thousand will have assembled earlier. The entire group will then proceed to Market Street, up Fourth Street to Moscone Center. Thousands will have already assembled in the center, swelling the crowd into the tens of thousands.

The program begins at 3 p.m. and will end, Boneberg explains, "when it is over — probably three to four hours." In addition to music on stage, speakers will include AIDS rights advocate Bobbi Campbell; the Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, Virginia Apuzzo; Los Angeles activist Morris Kight; and Bill Olwell, the highest ranking Gay union official in the nation (Food and Commercial Workers Union). Boneberg noted that additional speakers will be announced before the event.

NATIONAL ATTENTION

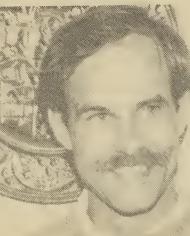
National coverage of the large Gay event is already underway. The *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times* have had articles about the march. Co-chair Mary Dunlap has appeared on CBS Morning News and Boneberg was interviewed last week on the Cable News Network. The co-chairs are also making appearances at various Gay Freedom Day celebrations in California to promote the event. The organizers emphasize that media interest in the march will mount in the next month.

A suggestion that the Moscone event be combined

with the June 24 parade here was rejected some time ago by parade organizers. The march will be promoted on the parade route by posters and flyers. Boneberg said it was unfortunate that the parade organizers have refused to give the march two minutes during the program in the Civic Center to mention the march.

Checks are beginning to come into the parade office and \$15,000 has been raised — and spent — on printing, billboards, telephones, office space, mailings, and setting up fundraisers. With the exception of a small salary paid to Boneberg, a staff of volunteers is maintaining the 7-day-a-week office at 2301 Market Street, near Castro. The telephone (863-5005) is operating 24 hours.

Boneberg said that the organizing committee asks only two major things of the Gay community here — that they at-



Paul Boneberg (Photo: Rink)

tend the event and contribute financially now so the final mailings and details can be worked out. A mailing to 100,000 went out last week and requests for brochures are piling up on the desks. Boneberg stresses, "We could use \$30,000 now so we can finalize our plans in the next four weeks. I pledge that the money will be well-spent." ■

G. Mendenhall

Hookers' Ball, Moral Majority and People Dressed as Birds to Greet Demo Convention

While march organizers believe the Lesbian/Gay event at Moscone Center will be the BIG event that Sunday, others will be doing their thing: Bisexuals will assemble during the day in front of the Center. The SF Hospitality Coalition will meet "somewhere" for its own convention and is described as an assembling of "hippie hold-outs." A forum on prostitution will be held near the Center. An ecumenical Interfaith Witness group will hold a worship service during the evening at Grace Cathedral. Labor Unionists will also march on Market Street earlier in the day on July 15. They will start at the Ferry Building and proceed to the Civic Center.

Events also include the Hookers' Ball on July 17 at Harrison Street Theater; an All Peoples Congress rally in Union Square on July 12 to protest the Moral Majority and the All Species Rally in the Civic Center on July 14 will feature "people dressed as plants, birds, and animals."

Local Gay activist Dennis Peron is producing three events during the convention:

- The Marijuana Bastille Day Parade will begin in the Civic Center at noon on July 14 and proceed to Moscone Center where Gay comics and music will abound.

- On July 17 there will be a Rock Against Reagan concert in front of Moscone Center at noon featuring the Dead Kennedys and seven other rock groups.

- Peron is also producing the Hookers' Ball.

The religious Right will be here in force also. The Moral Majority will have a family conference at the Union Square Holiday Inn, July 12-13. Jerry Falwell and Phyllis Schlafly are featured speakers. Protest demonstrations are being organized by local Gay activists and the All Peoples Congress — the National Pro-Life Democrats, an anti-abortion group, and Save Our Souls (SOS), an anti-Gay fundamentalist group, will be present but have not announced dates. ■

G.M.

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No Bathhouse Sex Monitoring

(Continued from page 1)

Britt acted on May 14, six weeks after the Silverman decree, by announcing a city ordinance which would transfer the licensing of steam baths from the police department to the health department. He did not speak out against the Silverman plan to halt sex in Gay steam baths at that time.

Now, two months after the Silverman decree, Britt surprised many by proposing an ordinance that would prevent the city from imposing a "no sex" rule in such businesses. The amendment to his May 14 proposal would prohibit Silverman from using his licensing power to regulate sexual activity.

BRITT'S SURPRISE

Why is Britt taking the public stance against the bathhouse "no sex" ban at this time?

Sal Rosseli, president of the Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, explained that Britt came before his club's Executive Committee last week to ask for support for his earlier "transfer" proposal. The one-hour session concluded with Britt being told that his proposal would be opposed by the club unless it included a ban against the monitoring of bathhouse sex.

A NEWS ANALYSIS

Britt explained to B.A.R., "I was asked to make it clear at the Toklas meeting that any regulating would not include sexual activity." He agreed and the City Attorney wrote the appropriate legislation for consideration at this week's hearing on his

proposal before the Board of Supervisors' Public Protection Committee. The supervisor also went before the full Toklas membership last Monday and won approval of his "transfer" proposal — on the condition that the "no sex" ban be ended in the proposal.

Silverman, upon hearing of the new Britt proposal, said, "It is amazing to me that Britt would limit the powers of this department in any way that would help control the spread of AIDS."

Britt said that Silverman had made it clear to him that he was not going to shut down the bathhouses. Silverman responded that if the Board of Supervisors ended his "no sex" proposal, he would consider closing the baths. Britt told B.A.R., "I doubt that he would do that because he could not justify such action from current medical information." The supervisor said Silverman had proposed regulations because he did not have the legal justification for closing the baths.

COMMUNICATION GAP?

This reporter wrote on April 12, "Britt, the highest elected Gay official in the city, has avoided the bathhouse controversy. At one point he said that the bathhouses might be used to house AIDS patients. Britt has offered no direction to a divided and frequently confused Gay community. He has offered no analysis or commentary to the Gay press."

Britt denied this analysis this week in *Bay Area Reporter* interview. He insisted that he has tried to communicate his views on the bathhouse controversy to the Gay community. He said he

Total San Francisco AIDS Cases Reported in May 38
Total San Francisco AIDS Deaths Reported in May 20

San Francisco AIDS Cases By Age Group May 31, 1984

Age Group	Number of Cases	Percent of Total
Under 20	0	0%
20 - 29	82	15%
30 - 39	286	52%
40 - 49	138	25%
over 49	43	8%
Total	549	

San Francisco AIDS Cases By Race/Ethnicity May 31, 1984

Race/Ethnicity	Cases	Percent of Total
White	497	91%
Black	22	4%
Hispanic	25	5%
Asian	2	.4%
Other	1	.2%
Unknown	2	.4%
Total	549	

Reported AIDS Morbidity and Mortality National, California and San Francisco May 31, 1984

United States California San Francisco

Cases	4615	1165	549
Deaths	1999	397	213
Percent	43%	34%	39%
Dead			

has spoken to AIDS forums and been available. The supervisor said the city charter prohibits him from telling department heads how to run their departments but insisted, "It is difficult to get the message out as to how I feel to the media. I have been very vocal. The media has focused on the closing of the

baths but not enough on the decision to regulate sexual ac-

tivity."

The public police hearing to discuss the new "no sex" guidelines, scheduled for June 27, was canceled this week by Mayor Dianne Feinstein. There is speculation that she took the action to avoid a public debate on the guidelines just before the Democratic National Convention (July 16-19). One CBS-TV official reportedly said that the network was ready to cover the bathhouse controversy here nationally if there was a public hearing. Feinstein evidently sought to avoid that type of publicity.

San Francisco stands alone as the only city in the United States which is contemplating regulating sex in bathhouses. Major cities that have sizable Gay populations — Los Angeles, New York, Houston, New Orleans — have rejected the idea of such a proposal. When asked why this was so one month ago, Silverman responded, "San Francisco leads the way." However, not one city has followed.

Britt insists that his proposal will be considered by the full Board of Supervisors at either the June 18 or June 25 meeting.

G. Mendenhall

The oldest, the biggest, and the gayest Gay newspaper — the perennial **Bay Area Reporter**.

Hotel Tax Fund

(Continued from page 1)

could also mean that groups such as the San Francisco Band Foundation, which is the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, would have a better shot at receiving money. Currently they receive none from the Hotel Tax Fund.

The newly proposed 1.5% percent tax would generate approximately \$400,000 for one-time-only promotional events in the city. If applicable, this would have included such civic events as the return of the cable cars and next year's Super Bowl, which will be played in the Bay Area.

San Francisco's Chief Administrative Officer, Roger Boas told *Bay Area Reporter* that he was highly supportive of the changes. His office makes the final decisions regarding the

allocation of the funds. He has a citizen hotel tax fund advisory committee which makes recommendations; through a tax fund administrator, Boas makes the final approval of funding.

In recent years Boas has met with a certain amount of criticism for not providing more funding to Lesbian and Gay cultural and performing arts activities. He believes the new proposal by Supervisor Britt will provide him the opportunity to direct more money into the Lesbian/Gay community.

San Francisco is the first city to begin to pay arts organizations directly through a tax on hotel rooms, a plan that has been since copied by other cities. The money is also used for a wide variety of expenses ranging from the bond indebtedness on Candlestick Park to costs of operating the Convention and Tourists Bureau.

A. White

KKK March

(Continued from page 1)

said that her husband was the Klan member's nephew. She described Bill Albers as a "shit disturber." They receive threatening phone calls in their Modesto home on a regular basis.

Periodically, Albers will go to a bar, gather some friends, and announce a Klan meeting in Modesto. Several sources said the group numbers no more than a dozen. Each time there is a Klan demonstration announced, Mrs. Albers says the phone calls start coming. Upon learning of the plans for a Klan march in San Francisco, she reacted with fear and concern that harm might come to her two children.

The woman was amazed that her Klan relative was planning an anti-Gay march. "That's their business," she said of San Francisco Gays.

Brian Clark, a reporter for the

Modesto Bee, described Bill Albers as a "low life redneck" who "can't hold a job." Clark said that every time Albers has put on his sheets and planned a demonstration, the city reacts. Religious leaders in the area gather together and denounce the Klan and Albers.

Should the report in the *Examiner* be true, it states that the location of the Ku Klux Klan march in San Francisco will be kept secret. The police confirmed that there is concern for the people's safety if the march takes place in San Francisco. Officer Hennessey did acknowledge that there are laws guaranteeing freedom of assembly which would give the Ku Klux Klan the right to demonstrate on the sidewalks of San Francisco without gaining a police permit.

Though there is considerable concern about the possibility of violence during the convention, police authorities are expressing a confidence that they will keep control in the city.

A. White



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SAG President on Homophobia: "An Impossible Situation"

by Allen White

"We have winners and we have losers," stated Ed Asner, President of the Screen Actors Guild, who was in the city to appear at several fundraisers for Gay Supervisor Harry Britt.

In the winner column he pointed to Harry Britt, who is on his way to winning re-election as San Francisco Supervisor. In the losing column he discussed the dire plight of homophobia in the entertainment industry.

Asner said he can see no way that the cycle of homophobia will be broken in the entertainment industry. As head of the Screen Actors Guild, he has met several times with Gay groups in Los Angeles to tackle the problem. "It's an impossible situation," he said. "An actor can be working in a top-rated series and if he comes out of the closet, you can be sure," Asner said, "his show will be canceled within a year."

Ed Asner personally went through a similar situation when he spoke out against government foreign policy in Central America. It is generally conceded that it was his forthright political stand which caused the cancellation of the "Lou Grant" television series in which he starred. ■

Asner speaks from a perspective of compassion for Lesbians and Gays and out of a frustration to force a change on this issue. The Screen Actors Guild is the working union for every actor in the motion picture business. He acknowledges there is an awareness of the problem taking place in the entertainment business but also noted that it would be virtually impossible to force producers to hire actors because they were Gay.

Asner said he had looked forward to campaigning in San Francisco. "I wanted to be identified with Harry Britt. He is a winner," he said, "for all the right reasons."

Harry Britt, commenting on Ed Asner's "Lou Grant" role, said he would make an excellent editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Britt then went on to enumerate the many communities in the city in which he now

Whistle Wise

by Stef Mattfeld

You don't have to take judo lessons. The best self-defense method is to prevent violence before it occurs by developing and practicing personal and community safety awareness.

Be "whistle-wise." The whistle is the smallest, most effective public alarm system money can buy. When used in a "whistle-wise" community, the whistle can reduce and even prevent violent street crime. Whistles are inexpensive, easy to use, and you need no license or training to use one. To be "whistle-wise" just use your own personal safety awareness and follow these steps. Carry a whistle with you at all times and use it if you anticipate a violent situation or see someone in trouble. Recognize the whistle as a signal for help; if you hear a whistle it means that someone is in danger and needs you to respond.

Becoming "whistle-wise" can't stop violent street crime completely, but it can help reduce it. If you want to find out where to get a whistle or how to make your neighborhood "whistle-wise," call Community United Against Violence at 864-3112. ■

Black Caucus Gets AIDS Rep

Washington, D.C. Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) has agreed to represent Black Lesbians and Gays before the Congressional Black Caucus, as well as before the entire U.S. Congress, to insure that future AIDS-related appropriations fairly include the concerns of Third World individuals and groups.

This unprecedented pledge of support was announced this week by Gilberto "Gil" Gerald, executive director of the National Coalition of Black Gays (NCBG), following extended discussions between Gerald and Stokes' office. "Not only has Congressman Stokes consented to serve as our liaison, but he has

indicated that he will position himself as an advocate for us in all AIDS legislation in the future," said Gerald.

Stokes has designated Jackie Bowen, a legislative aide, to work directly with NCBG.

While most members of the Congressional Black Caucus are co-sponsors of the pending Gay civil rights bill, Stokes is considered crucial since he heads the "health braintrust" of the caucus (and would appropriately handle AIDS issues), and he serves on the House Appropriations Committee.

Gerald says that NCBG is determined to impress on the caucus, and the general public,

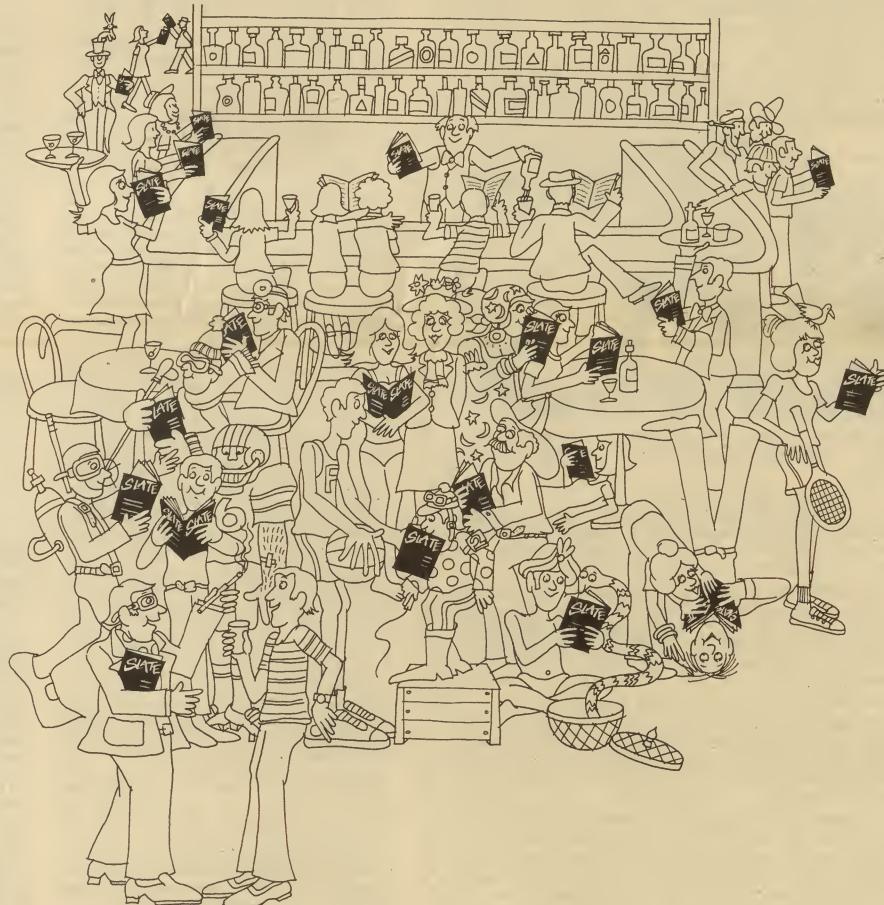
the fact that more than 40 percent of persons with AIDS are Black and other Third World individuals.

"We want future appropriations to reflect this demographic statistic both in the authorizing language and in dollars," added Gerald. "In the past people of color have not always been consciously included in educational efforts, and this has hindered both preventive and therapeutic information from reaching the Third World Community which still suffers disproportionately from this disease."

The NCBG executive director stressed that a Black congressman whose portfolio includes health concerns would logically have the sensitivity and experience needed to address this need. ■



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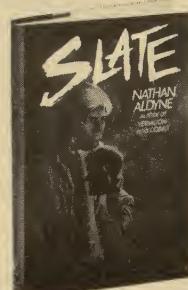
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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

Time to Grow Up

A while back there was a book on the bestseller list called *The Peter Pan Syndrome: Men Who Have Never Grown Up*. Written in glib, facile prose by a guy named Dr. Don Kiley, it submitted the proposition that most young men in the U.S. today are Peter Pans.

We are allegedly irresponsible, doing what we want when we want; anxiety-ridden, blocked as we are/were from close relationships with our fathers — and accordingly doomed to indecisiveness in our life choices; lonely and subsequently compulsively seeking a mate to quell the discomfort of being alone; narcissistic, sacrificing true love for the eternal pursuit and safety of unobtainable perfection; and chauvinistic.

The Peter Pan Syndrome knows no boundary of straight and Gay orientation. Ostensibly, we are all victims of it as children of the post World War II society. While the generalities of the theory are cloying, stained with an accusing, supercilious air, there is, alas, much truth in it — perhaps even more so in the Gay community.

Look around you. Go to a Gay bar or walk along Castro Street. They might not be Never Never Land, but they sure are riddled with men who dress and act like they still consider themselves the adolescents they once were.



(Photo: Rink)

We refer to ourselves as 'boys' and, yes, we act like boys and then we rail against society for patronizing us like petulant children.

The spectre of AIDS has been the Captain Hook that prodded many Gays into the harsh realities and unavoidable responsibilities of adulthood. Having no children or families to support allows Gays to conveniently forget that they still have adult obligations beyond paying a few bills.

The Peter Pan Syndrome is a psychobabble euphemism for "arrested development." Because Gay people were locked in closets for so long, when freedom arrived, all the pent-up emotions and drives went into an obsessed overdrive. Like starving kids let loose in the candy store, Gays released themselves regarding only the present pleasures, not the future obligations — to themselves and others.

Alas, the future is upon us and it's time to grow up. The days of free, devil-may-care abandon are over. Just as the bullets of November 23, 1963, ended Camelot in the U.S., AIDS has ended an era for us. But the issue of 'growing up' goes beyond AIDS.

We have the freedom to dress as we wish, be it clone, S&M, drag, or GQ. We can even act out our fantasies in public. But how long can we push this "right" and simultaneously maintain any validity and credibility in our fight for civil rights and expectations for a conservative society's respect.

Flaunting the many aspects of our lifestyle (subculture intimates we are *beneath* something so let's forget that word) served its purpose in the beginning struggle, for it established to the world the facts of who we were and that we weren't going to go away.

Now, the everyday lumberman/construction worker look, the fight to maintain irresponsible casual sex (merely because

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ject met minimum standards, or should it be restricted to dealing with the problem of outside entrepreneurs?

• Could the committee charge a subscription fee to enable it to jump in with injunctions, restraining orders, or attachments when misdealing by an entrepreneur seems likely?

As it is now, the small amounts involved, the short notice and the haphazard contracts make such remedial measures unfeasible.

As a litigator, I know little about accounting and less about tax. But I wonder if you could come up with some names of people who might be willing to attend such a conference, especially accountants and tax lawyers, or whether you could make it the project of one of your standing committees? I have discussed the idea briefly with some people at the Parade Committee, with Tom Waddell and some others, and there seems to be a uniform agreement that the conference is a good idea.

Alan French, Esq.
1 Sutter, Suite 508
San Francisco, CA 04114

Olympic Boondoggle

* The article concerning the pending law suit by the USOC against the Gay Games Committee (May 24, 1984) made me relive the whole ordeal that many of us suffered through two years ago . . . isn't it time to stop?

As a gay man and participant in the original Gay Games, I say it is time to say ENOUGH to the homophobic community, especially the USOC and their supporters who would attack us and our assets.

While there may not be much we can do about cutting off the support they have already gained from us, I do urge every gay man and woman who is planning on going to LA for the games to cancel their trip. Do not be guilty of supporting our suppressors!

Not only do I plea for a boycott of the games, but a boycott of the national supporters as well, i.e. First Interstate Bank, Coca Cola, 7-11, Buick, McDonalds and any other business that financially supports that "other" Olympics.

Let's not be cheated out of our rights, our money or our way of life . . . the choice is yours and so are the consequences.

Ed Smay
East Palo Alto, CA

Let's Stop Rip-offs of Gay Charities

* Several times over the last few years I have been approached by gay eleemosynary groups who have been or are in the process of being or are unwittingly about to be taken advantage of by the thriving class of "gay entrepreneurs" who seem to prey upon such groups.

The familiar story is that a worthy gay cause with a lot of community support is approached by someone who promises an extravaganza of some sort. The entrepreneur will put on a dance, make a movie, sell raffle tickets, etc. All the charity need do is supply the use of its name. The entrepreneur will simply take his costs and a small cut for his trouble, and the charity will make a bundle. There is never any guaranteed minimum; the accounting is always done by the entrepreneur, and somehow they never seem to make a profit. Over the years, these impressionists have ruined the business goodwill of many a worthy gay cause.

Unfortunately the rip-off continues, mainly because the charities that spring up are filled with enthusiasm and altruism but are short on cash and professional help. They usually have no choice but to embrace any fundraising schemes that are offered to them.

I think it would be helpful if several of us were to meet and try to formulate a code of ethics, to which gay groups could subscribe. Then, if a group is approached by some entrepreneur with a project, the group can require the project meet guidelines set forth in the code of ethics, or prohibit the use of its name. The major point I think should be insisted on is that all such projects have the money collected and the accounting done by an independent body. If the major gay charities subscribe, the entrepreneurs will be forced to clean up their act. I think a small conference would be helpful, to discuss the following questions:

- Should all projects be required to guarantee a minimum return?
- Could a standing review committee be set up, to which the charities could submit projects for review?
- Should the entrepreneur be required to advance a minimum sum to pay for the independent accounting?
- What are the minimum requirements which must be observed to avoid risk to IRS 501(c) status?
- Should the committee keep a list of entrepreneurs who still owe payments to gay charities, and require that previous commitments be kept before new ones may be entered?
- Should the code of ethics include projects run by the charity entirely in-house, so that it would serve as a guarantee to the donating gay community that the pro-

Worse Than Falwell?

* I just read your letter from "Ernst Rohm" from California Republicans for Individual Freedoms.

Please tell me that you're joking. I refuse to believe that kind of mentality exists in the Gay community. This Ernst Rohm has either quite a sense of humor or is real slime. If he is for real, I pity him for he is the victim of his own delusion.

The "Gay" community is all the diverse groups that he mentions in rather unflattering ways, and that's where our strength is — we come from everywhere. If he is for real, he's a greater enemy to the human race than Jerry Falwell and his poor misguided fools.

David Gallego
Oakland, CA

ED. NOTE: Nobody could be worse than Jerry Falwell, but, then again, maybe you have a good point.

Falwell's No Christian

* I am sure the good Lord above must be as weary as I am of these so-called christians who two facedly spout peace, love, apple pie and motherhood in one breath, and in the next, spew bigotry, deceit and hatred for all those who do not measure up to their lily white, holier than thou, standards.

I am outraged, to say the least, to read that Mr. Jerry Falwell and his band of self-righteous, fundamentalist hypocrites will be here in San Francisco cloaked in the American flag and ready to do battle with anyone not carrying a bible or not wearing an "I am saved" button at the Democratic convention.

If these so-called christians were truly members of a loving church and loving children of a merciful, understanding God, they would neither find, nor have the time to deceive, to hate, or to try to pollute the minds and hearts of decent American citizens whose God is full of compassion, tolerance, wisdom and love. If they were true Christians, they would be following God's commandments to go forth and feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless, to visit the sick and imprisoned.

But apparently this is not the ministry of the Moral Majority. They are too busy peddling their self-seeking, counterfeit religion for money. Greed, deceit, hypocrisy and hate are synonymous with Falwell and his gang. I only hope that the Democratic conventioneers and all of San Francisco can see through his spiteful purpose.

Jim Stuart
San Francisco



LETTERS

More on Dianne's Spies

★ Last week I read with furious dismay, but not with surprise, how our aggressive and prolific madam mayor had sent undercover police into the city's gay bathhouses and sex clubs south of Market. The gall of this Jewish Princess comes to change our town!

It would seem that the up and coming Democratic National Convention in our fair city has brought before it "shades of old LA." Remember the Ed Davis era? For those of us who do remember this struggle, it was a time filled with fear the likes of the AIDS crisis has never seen.

During the 70's, it became almost commonplace to observe two, three or even four police patrol cars parked outside the local night spots (One Way, Griff's, The Detour, etc., etc.) just waiting for some poor unsuspecting client to merely trip over the curb or a crack in the sidewalk and within a matter of moments an entire herd of police officers would descend upon the victim(s) like flies to a fresh cow pile; guns and night-sticks drawn for battle!

Lady Dianne had promised no police intervention in the implementation of her "so called" ambition to help curb the spread of the AIDS crisis . . . she obviously lied!! I for one, fear the devastating mental effects that a midnight raid on Castro, Polk or Folsom Streets would bring. I remember all too well the Selma Street and Hollywood Boulevard midnight raids. I can only describe them as horrible and no Gay brother or sister should ever have to live that nightmare again. Should we wait to see what her next step will be? Is it not obvious?

Dianne Feinstein is not interested in helping to curb the spread of AIDS by stopping sex in the bathhouses and private clubs throughout the city. That tactic alone predicts this message. Health directors from other cities have already let this be known. Her blind ambitions have led her on the obvious course necessary for her to succeed in "crooked" politics and that is complete suppression of that group of people who rallied to her support during the threat of recall last year. What fools we were!

Sadly, we are all her target now! It's not enough we worry daily about beloved friends and the threat of AIDS, but we now have another menace to look over our shoulder for . . . the police . . . spurred on by a mayor who has "turned-coat" and ran after her own dreams forgetting those who have been with her through her own struggles.

Can we honestly let her get anywhere near the White House knowing what her political tactics have been here. The nation has the right to know! San Francisco will speak the truth!

Alan Grant
San Francisco

Dianne Cuts It

★ Isn't this what the ERA and sexual freedom is all about?

Is there a male delegate to the Democratic Convention who will not wince as he learns of our mayoree's propensity to emasculate? What real man will want a castratrix but a heart-beat away from the Presidency.

One understands and accepts that there are probably as many pussy-whipped males under the dome of City Hall as there were eunuchs in the harem of the Ottoman Sultan, however, they are compensated by bureaucratic matronage; how do the rest of us benefit?

We are reaping what we fertilized during the Feinstein Administration. The adulation shown to that woman, *ad nauseum*, by gay males desiring to be loved, never questioned the cost. Now we know the Faustian price tag: our cocks. I don't want to sound too Freudian but this reeks of penis envy. What is this obsession that the Mayor has with the male genitalia? Does this derive from the education of a nice Jewish-American Princess by Roman Catholics in Puritan principles? Did an education at Stanford only encapsulate and not enlighten this early conditioning? Are Richard Blum's frequent trips to the Himalayas additively responsible? The mind boggles at the contemplation of explanations.

According to Her Honor all she wants to do is save us from ourselves by legislating us into celibacy, very graphically I might add. Her course is clear and it is doubtful that there is a total yard of guts to be found among the Supervisors to stop her. Again, we end in the courts because of administrative folly. The sooner the better let us enter the portals of the judicial system to protect our liberties and restrain our adversaries.

Martin F. Stow
San Francisco

Playing with Organs

★ Her Honor has decided the word penis is offensive to her sensibilities, so it becomes a copulatory organ. Isn't the word copulatory also rather suggestive of something sinful? How about instrument for procreation?

Incidentally, does her Honor have a vulva or is it also a copulatory organ?

The blatant hypocrisy of what she is doing to impress the Democrats is shameful.

G. H. Gilchrist
San Francisco

MUNI's Service with a Smile

★ Please print this letter addressed to MUNI in B.A.R.:

Bruce Paddock
San Francisco

* * *

Mr. Harold H. Geissenheimer
General Manager, SF MUNI Ry.

I think it appropriate to inform you of the following incident which took place June 5, 1984 at approximately 12:35 p.m.:

The 47 Van Ness-Army bus (Run #330) was stopped at the stoplight at Mission and 11th, facing east, waiting to turn right onto 11th Street. Standing beside the driver, conversing with him was another Muni employee, dressed in the traditional brown uniform. Since he was standing in front of the line on the floor, I assumed this was the driver's supervisor. Suddenly, the driver yelled at the top of his lungs out the window, "FAGGOT! ASSHOLE!"

I looked to see who he was yelling at, but only saw some tourists on the street corner. I don't really think that is of consequence. The problem here is that a public servant conducted himself thusly. To further complicate matters, although I waited to hear some sort of condemnation coming from the other employee, none was forthcoming. He indicated his approval by his silence.

I don't know how seriously Muni takes such disgusting outbursts, but by the nature of the event, and the other employees lack of reaction, I can only assume it is considered "no big deal." There are, however, those who do take this seriously. I am sending carbon copies of this letter to some of those individuals. I also obtained the name and phone number of another rider who will verify the events as they occurred.

Bruce Paddock

For Gay Freedom Time

★ Quickie Quiz: Remember when we used to shout, "Out of the closet and into the street," and proclaim, "To know us is to love us?" What better way to commemorate Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week and the fifteenth anniversary of Stonewall than to catch up on some "coming out," to family, employers, colleagues, and friends. Harvey Milk viewed the act of coming out as fundamental to our personal and collective liberation. For the gains and rights we enjoy today we thank the men and women who stepped across their closet thresholds and survived.

"Coming out" can be threatening and downright dangerous, but do not blithely dismiss the option. And don't give me, "They know about me at the office but we don't talk about it." Straight colleagues don't broadcast their sexual preference (the hell they don't); why should I hit them over the head with mine?"

Your heterosexual colleagues don't need to come out of the closet — *you do*. Let them have it gently if you wish (you've had plenty of practice). Tell them where you are going June 24th, and tell them why we have a parade and why we still need a "movement." Remind them of the injustices, harassment, and contempt that remain the Lesbian and Gay man's daily fare. That Dan White is free, and that AB-1 lines the governor's wastebasket; that AIDS is being used as a pretext to abridge our freedom of assembly and choice; that cries of "Hey, faggot" continue to foul the air; and that all this profoundly affects the well-being of that lovable guy or gal at the next desk — *you*. Help your friends and co-workers associate Gayness with you instead of with images cooked up by a homophobic society and served on biased national TV reports.

As for mom and pop, you don't have to tell me: "We just don't talk about it." (What then, grandma's gallstones? the weather?) No talk of this central fact about the son or daughter they may adore? If your parents are given to throwing fits or are unlikely to change, that's one thing. But if a chance exists, consider this opportunity to be honest, overcome fear, become closer, and grow together. Would you sacrifice these benefits to avoid initial discomfort?

Freedom and self-respect are not attainable from within a closet. As you steer clear of too much sun and too many sweets this season, avoid also the babbling of those obsessed with not "hitting people over the head with it" and not "flaunting" their Gayness. Tell them you think their "discretion" is a triumph of erroneous thinking and homophobia, and the antithesis of Gay liberation and pride.

Joel Laski
San Francisco

The Generous Kings & Queens

★ Say what you will about the royalty trip, drag queens and titles, but where do you think most of the money donated to gay (and a lot of straight) charities in the past 20 years has come from?

In the last few years only a very small percentage of the hundreds of thousands of dollars needed has come from city or state government. And, that is one of the main objects upon election: to beat out the previous titleholders as far as raising money for worthwhile causes. For example, one Emperor, Bob Ross, has raised tens of thousands of dollars as an auctioneer at gay functions.

So, get out there and vote, attend those functions and remember, before The City recognized us as a group — not that long ago — all we had were a few guys running around with dresses on working for us.

J. C. Cunningham
(not a titleholder)



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VIEWPOINT

(Continued from previous page)

it's our right to), and the seemingly innocuous references to "boyfriends suggest only that we cannot or will not grow out of the preoccupations usually maintained by adolescents.

In addition, there is truth to the concept that the way we dress and behave is the way we see ourselves. If we dress as if we live in a ghetto, we see ourselves as living in a ghetto.

Just because we may have the right to do what we will doesn't make it right to do it. As Peter Pan, we characteristically do before we think. It's time to start thinking first — about our appearance, behavior, and style; about who we are and want to be.

Part of growing up is realizing that we don't have to lose our child-like qualities, our *joie de vivre*, but just put them in the proper perspective. Never Never Land doesn't go on forever.

Michael Lasky

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LETTERS

Metaphysically Speaking

* In all our efforts to acquire our Gay rights there is one very important thing we have all forgotten: The only rights we will ever have are the rights we first give! The only love we will ever have is the love we first give. We adamantly and ardently search outside our own hearts for Mr. or Ms. Fix It — the person that will walk into our lives and make everything right. Well, guess what? We will only ever draw to us that which we are ourselves. If you want someone with a beautiful body, first you must have one. If you want someone with a lot of money, first you must have a lot of money. One of the greatest Universal Principles is "Like Attracts Like!" Accordingly, if we want rights we must first give ourselves in our own hearts and minds the freedom to do, and have anything we want without guilt or fear. When we as a collective gay consciousness have the mental equivalent of total freedom, only then will we have it. And it starts with me and you on an individual level.

Many of our brothers even now are leaving the planet using the Dis-Ease of mind and heart called AIDS. When that deepest inner part of anyone feels empty, lost and hopeless, unable to survive in the jungle of the selves, they go OUT!

We need to ask ourselves how often do we really give LOVE? How often do we allow our brothers and sisters to feel totally acceptable? When how much you need a friend becomes more important than how well endowed are you, you will be very close to overcoming more than any disease we may have created. We will have opened ourselves to a world where each of us first sees the life force within before the possibilities of sexual satisfaction in the outer manifestation, the body.

It is time to wake up and realize that we ourselves have, in fact, created our own wanton, insatiable lives of searching. Searching every kindred eye in the crowd, hoping someone will love us, when, if the truth were known, we wouldn't know how to handle love if we had it.

We must build our Gay community on service to Mankind or suffer the consequences. If we gave more to the people we walk among every day we would receive more. Like a man once said, "Forgive them for they know not what they do!" — we too must forgive ignorance and fear, for they are only an extension of our own false belief systems, and give ourselves and everyone else the right to be free. Freedom is an inside job. Let's build from the lumber of our lives a temple of love and service and I know we never again will have to demand any kind of rights.

Marc Bollinger
San Francisco

Gay Slurs from Gays

* I would like to voice a bit of anger and frustration toward the gay community.

I moved to San Francisco last year to get away from the closed minds I encountered in Seattle. I can deal with verbal attacks from straight jerks, but when lesbians call me sick for wearing a uniform and gay men talk down leather within earshot, I lose any faith I have acquired in the unity of gay people.

The other day a gay man yelled at me on the Muni for wearing a police belt. He screamed "What's that for? Does it make you fuck better?" He then said something about me being a sadist, which is not true.

I will be attending the Gay March this year, but not because I believe in the unity of gay people. I will be there to cruise policemen!

Bruce Lindberg
San Francisco

London is No S.F.

* I've just returned to London from a trip to San Francisco and I wanted to extend a big thank you to everyone on Castro who made my time there so memorable. You are all so fortunate to live in such a beautiful city and to be so open and free.

Since getting back, the differences between the UK and the US have become very apparent. I live in Earl's Court (London's equivalent of Castro) and it's like climbing back into the closet. We don't even hold hands on the street here let alone embrace! I wonder if you all realize that you have achieved the dream gays in the rest of the world yearn for? We aspire to the things you take for granted. For the first time in my life I felt I could really be myself — it was an intoxicating freedom.

Whilst on the subject of intoxication, I'd like to say "hello" to Peter, Chuck, Joe, Herb, George and most of all to Bobby — thanks for showing me how the first League of Nations live! Your kindness and hospitality does America proud.

Finally thanks to the B.A.R. for providing lots of valuable information and insights. I'm looking forward to the day I return to the place I love best — San Francisco.

Mike Norton
London, England

"Parasite Connection" Decoded

* The two-part series "Parasite Connection to the Newly Isolated AIDS Virus" (May 24-May 31) was based on a brief prepared for AIDS researchers. For those unable — or unwilling — to plow through the original, here's a less technical summary.

We don't know if intestinal or other parasites in gay men, Haitians and Africans play a role in the development of AIDS. However, numerous studies suggest that they might. Kaposi's sarcoma and Burkitt's lymphoma — two "cancers" that appear in people with AIDS — have traditionally been found in three groups: people over the age of 65, those receiving immunosuppressive medication, or in inhabitants of tropical regions. Several researchers have suggested that long-standing parasitic infections in the latter group may lower immune defenses, allowing the viruses thought responsible for these two tumors to flourish.

Perhaps the most compelling evidence that parasites can open the door to viral infection has been presented recently by two teams of Japanese scientists, who examined blood samples taken from several thousand inhabitants of Japan's semi-tropical southern islands for evidence of HTLV-I (Human T-Cell Leukemia Virus Type 1). Working independently, the researchers came to the same conclusion: subjects who had a history of chronic parasitic disease had a significantly greater risk of acquiring HTLV-I.

In the spring of last year, Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Institutes of Health suggested that HTLV-I in addition to causing adult leukemia, might also be the agent of AIDS. However, he and a team of French scientists under the direction of Dr. Luc Montagnier went on to discover HTLV-III, a variant of HTLV-I that is now considered by most researchers to be the long sought after AIDS virus. But the French have been quick to acknowledge that, like its cousin HTLV-I, HTLV-III probably does not cause illness in everyone exposed to it. (Preliminary data indicate that 35 percent of "symptomless" homosexual men have already been infected with the presumed AIDS virus.) Evidence that there must be some "other factor" in addition to HTLV-III to bring about full-blown AIDS will soon be released by Dr. Montagnier. However, a colleague has already expressed a similar sentiment.

In the conclusion of his study of the AIDS virus in hemophiliacs published in the 7 April issue of *The Lancet*, Dr. E. Vilmer of the Hospital Claude Bernard says that in order for the presumed AIDS virus to spread through the body there must be an additional challenge to the immune system. Sperm, CMV, intravenous drugs, or plasma-derived clotting factors may do the trick. But of all the possible "immunogenic stimuli" only parasites are common to the three largest risk groups for AIDS — Haitians, Africans, and homosexual men.

Surveys conducted two years ago reveal that 6 out of 10 gay men living in the San Francisco Bay Area are infected with parasites. Anyone wanting to be screened for intestinal parasites should contact his private physician, the San Francisco Department of Health, or the Department of Tropical Diseases at UCSF.

Richard Pearce, Ph.D.
San Francisco

What's Watt

* The *Viewpoint* expressed by Publisher Bob Ross indicated a remarkable ability to have patience with people who believe they have the right to call other people's shots. The thought of how gays would have it, if it were not for people like him and all the others makes me shudder.

As for the mayor, some supervisors, and their legal beagles — do they really expect us to believe they stand around in their shade-drawn playrooms discussing whether the candle power cast on the chenille bedspread is protective enough to regulate their amorbusness?

Furthermore, all rooms at a public bathhouse whether for individual or group use should have doors, and be kept closed except for leaving or entering. And, if for group use, no light at all. That's what privacy is. Those who have it the other way around, have their wattle so ass backward, they could short circuit the political veneration they receive.

William (Bill!) Smith, 2001th.
San Francisco

Three-Wheelers Mint Bucks for AIDS

Monty Reddick & Tommy Turner
The Great Tricycle Race
c/o The Mint

* Congratulations once again on the success of another Great Tricycle Race. One couldn't ask for a better day, crowd and chairpersons to support this race and raise money for a good cause.

My partner, Scott Kendrick and I would like to extend our thanks to The Mint, the race monitors and yourselves for making the race enjoyable for myself, family and friends.

Please find enclosed our donation of \$100 for this year's cause, the patients in Ward 5B.

Thanks again for your support and we look forward to being a part of the Great Tricycle Race next year.

Mike Arribach
San Francisco

GUEST COLUMNS

The Fallacy In Closing the Bathhouses

by John E. Wahl

On June 8 *The Examiner* applied as much pressure as it could in an editorial to City government, for adoption of regulations which are designed to close the City's gay bathhouses. The purpose, *The Examiner* says, is to stop the spread of AIDS. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Closing San Francisco's gay bathhouses (or adopting repressive, intrusive, anti-sex regulations, which are really designed as a gimmick to get the bathhouses closed), will not stop the spread of AIDS as much as it will increase it. If it is true that people who practice probably high-risk-sexual activity, frequent the baths, then it is also true that they are not going to refrain from these activities just because the baths no longer exist.

These people will just continue their activities elsewhere — possibly in places where there may not be any soap and water, or facilities for cleanliness. San Francisco's gay baths have been active, for months, in the campaign to educate their customers in what is probably-high-risk sex. The results of this educational work, and the other existing general educational work directed at gay men in San Francisco, is already apparent.

The City's own statistics show a dramatic drop in rectal gonorrhea: 60% since mid-1982. Such a drop, in a relatively short period, in a major city, is apparently unprecedented.

It is clear that if you have a place where you can directly communicate with a target population (in this case those gay men who engage in probably-high-risk sexual activity), then you don't want to close the place, if you want to reach the people who use it.

The same thing goes for the probably-illegal anti-sex regulations: They are really designed to drive people away from the baths, so that they will close. Dr. Silverman intimated as much, in a recent *Examiner* news story. The ironic result is the same: Loss of direct contact with the target population the City allegedly wants to educate.

Of course, many of us who are gay believe that stopping the spread of AIDS is not the real motive for the attack on the baths. We know that the Mayor privately expressed her wish, over a year ago, that the baths be closed. We also know that what is being attacked is not a facility, but sexual activity between gay men who are consenting adults. We know that we have a mayor who has such a problem with the whole subject of sex, that she required the regulation-writers to drop the word "penis" from the draft regulations, and to substitute the words "copulatory organ"! (Incidentally, she did this while claiming that the whole subject was a health issue, in which she was not involved.)

The objective, behind closing the baths, whether conscious or unconscious, is to reinstate the old, repealed, anti-sodomy laws, by the back door. Gay men and lesbians, particularly, suffered incalculable pain from those medieval, oppressive laws. We cannot allow the heinous subterfuge of the claim to be "only protecting your health," to bring back the dark days when sex between two people of the same sex was against the law.

I lost a friend, through suicide, because of those laws. And David is just as dead as he would be if he had died from

disease. His case is not isolated, either.

It is particularly offensive to our community, for a Mayor who has vetoed and killed an ordinance which would have given gay men and women a legal structure for domestic-family-living units (the Domestic Partners Ordinance), to be so aggressive in attacking gay baths. But it is no surprise.

Dianne Feinstein is obsessed with the kind of impression her administration will make on the Democratic National Convention. Why else would there be street-paving work around Civic Center at 8 and 9 o'clock at night? Why else would she move to increase the number of taxicabs when there is no convincing proof of a need for them? But the Democrats should understand that gay men and lesbians are not all manipulatable fools any more. Many of us will look very skeptically at any ticket which includes this Mayor, and we will look skeptically at any presidential candidate who indicates that she will be in his cabinet.

Gay men are aware of the probably risks in certain sexual activities, and we don't need the Mayor's draconian oppression to "save us." To the extent that some gay men may still engage in such activities — in the bathhouses — then let's educate those people where we can find them — in the bathhouses.

Perhaps, Dianne, you should shake loose some of that 130 million dollars the City accumulated, for existing educational activities in this regard. After all, isn't our health supposed to be your prime concern? Or are you really only concerned with cheap cosmetic "fixes" — like quick street paving? ■

No Cause for Panic

by Rodger D. Pettyjohn

I have just returned from a year abroad and I am appalled at much of what I see and hear in the city. First, let me say that after a year of traveling, I am convinced that San Francisco is the greatest city in the world for gay men. Nowhere, not even in Amsterdam or Berlin, did I find the cultural advancement that we have here. Perhaps that is why I am so shocked to see what is going on.

When I left the city in May of 1983, I was glad to get away from seeing the word AIDS everywhere. Viewing the media hysteria from a distance has led me to the conclusion that this crisis, while real, is being used against us at every possible chance. I bleed emotionally for each and every person who has or will contract this syndrome, but this must not blind me or any of us from seeing the total picture. Several points need to be clarified.

First, the research we presently have consists only of case studies by epidemiologists. As with any specialty, the limited focus of epidemiology has both positive and negative effects. Certainly, we need epidemiologists to help combat this disease, but the statistics of a sick population only tell one part of the total story, and often this can be a misleading part. For instance, let's say that the case studies show that 90% of all AIDS victims frequented the baths twice a week. Now, that could be used as a pretty con-

vincing argument not to go to the baths. But, what if a study of gay men who frequented the baths twice a week revealed that only 1% of these men were ever diagnosed as having AIDS? That gives a very different picture.

The point is that case studies are limited to their application to the general (healthy) population. Let's not forget that just a few years ago all of us were considered mental degenerates because of the "facts" presented in the case studies of psychiatric patients who were gay. I have no doubt that there are going to be several epidemiologists whose present interviews and publications will serve to embarrass them in the years ahead, just as those of many famous psychiatrists served to be an embarrassment to truth.

Secondly, we are all falling victim to our homophobia. The medical establishment (of which, as a registered nurse, I am a part) has always been a strongly conformist and moralistic group, and this includes gay as well as non-gay health professionals. While great strides are being made in changing this situation, these themes remain dominant in the profession and consciously or subconsciously affect everything that it does.

Before the AIDS crisis, most non-gay health professionals didn't really know anything about what gay people did. Imagine the shock that your typ-

ically conservative health professional has when he or she (who has only had sexual intimacy with one or maybe two other persons in his or her whole life) finds out that many gay men have had hundreds of sexual contacts. (Not to mention the shock when they find out what we do!)

Even many gay health professionals subscribe to an essentially "straight" code when it comes to sexual behavior. Don't tell me that this shock to their moral values is not reflected in their professional conclusions.

Promiscuity is not a "dirty word" or "nasty behavior." To quote gay psychologist Charles Silverstein:

"If we believe that sexual pleasure is a part of the good life, then a wide variety of experience should be encouraged . . . Most of us have learned that having sex with another man is one of the best ways to get to know him and to learn from him. Frequent sexual experiences are a form of education . . ."

Let's face it, guys, if promiscuity was a major cause of AIDS, or if it so significantly increased one's risk of contacting the disease, most of us who lived in the city before the AIDS crisis began would already be dead!

Which brings up another point. There are 542 cases of AIDS presently diagnosed in gay men in San Francisco. Since the University of California's

(Continued on page 13)

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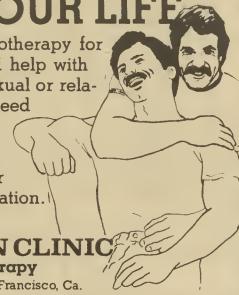
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Castro Street Dog Show



Mrs. Kassman and Alvin join a shirtless gentleman with the best teeth in San Francisco, or at least in this photo. (Photo: Rink)



Dog Show observers observed.
(Photo: R. Pruzan)



"Dachshunds, mein herr, not beagles!" (Photo: R. Pruzan)



Proud owner of Buddy, the leaping wonder dog, Jeffrey Allen. (Photo: T. Plewak)



Charity Raises Big \$\$

Castro Dog Show Brings Thousands to the Street

Dogs and Men Compete in Dual Beauty Pageant

by Allen White

Celebrity status comes in many forms and none can be more noble than being a four-legged winner at the Castro Street Dog Show. Last Sunday afternoon fifty dogs competed to become winners in the fourth annual drag show for dogs.

As the weather heated the area, dogs headed for watering dishes and men in their own special competition began to remove their shirts. Though the dogs weren't much interested, working out at gyms has obviously paid off for a substantial number of this year's audience of several thousand.

The events started at 11:00 in the morning as the Dykes on Bikes paraded down Castro Street with the Hayward Rah Raws. They were followed by Skip Barrett and the Ramblers, and then on stage by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the fabulous Jeanie Tracy.

At 1 p.m. the dog show began with the introduction of Sharon McNight, who has done the dog show before and has now become firmly entrenched as the Bert Parks of dog pageants.

The dogs that are the best at what they do, or appear to do, win prizes. Russell Kassman, the piano man, and his lover entered their dog Alvin. It was announced that Alvin shops. That's right, he shops at Neiman-Marcus and has a receipt to prove it. Alvin didn't win!

Another dog, which did win, climbs ladders. People applauded wildly, not really because he made it up the ladder, but rather because of his timing. The dog simply chose to ignore the crowd and its owner and headed straight for the foot of one of the judges, Supervisor Richard Hongisto. There was a collective momentary anticipation as the crowd wondered if this would be the dog that would cut loose. Hongisto was relieved that the dog didn't and that probably was one reason the dog won.

Lee Meriwether knows, if anyone would, the feeling the dogs felt as they walked down the ramp, many with a crown on their head. The former Miss America was there to present a celebrity dog award to winner "Princess Terri," whose owner is entertainer Sylvester.

Last year a group of four people joined together to carry off a Cleopatra theme with their little dog Joey. This year, they arrived onstage carrying the "Wizard of Oz" theme to the limit. Little Joey majestically arrived on a five-foot rainbow in a tiny basket. Joey (this is a dog, remember) was wearing little ruby slippers. After much encouragement and as thousands of sweaty, barechested men cheered and applauded, Joey jumped over the rainbow. Joey won for best costume, which had to be one of the understatement of the event.

In fact, the dog show is a serious contest. There were 50 entries and almost a dozen judges. This year the judges ranged from 132 Bush Restaurant owner Joe Ellis to school board member Libby Denbeim.

One side of the stage held Ron Huberman, who knows nothing about dogs but has learned the advantages of sitting on a raised stage in front of several thousand men, and Richard Hongisto, who doesn't care about several thousand men and wore a tie.

On the other side of the stage there was Cleve Jones, Mister



Roger Austin's dog was Best of Show at the Castro Dog soiree — Roger was Best of Show also. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

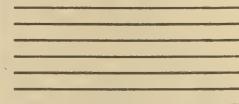
Marcus, and KRON's Wayne Shannon. Significantly, the dogs stayed away from all three of these gentlemen. You can tell the judges' awareness of the event went by their attire. Cleve Jones, no fool, wore a tank top. Wayne Shannon, a newcomer to the dog show by way of Seattle, wore a sweater. As the day progressed, Shannon's sweater left but in its place came his designer sunglasses. Television folk seem to always wear sunglasses when they're not on camera.

Up above Liquor Express in an office Ed Emond processed all the votes on his Osborne computer. Through electronics, the judging process can be tabulated in a matter of minutes.

The winner for best smile was Randy Major's dog Priscilla. Best buns went to "oddsizer," legs went to Sahmbo, trick went to Sharbo for making it up the ladder and not pissing on Richard Hongisto. Best match to owner was won by Sebastian, best old dog was Steve Brown's Puppy, best puppy was Stretch, best groomed was Bomar, and best of show was won by Reese and his owner Roger Austin.

The event is a charity affair with money being raised through the selling of raffle tickets. Several thousand dollars was raised which will go to the AIDS Ward at San Francisco General Hospital and the hospice "Coming Home." The big winner was Geoff Roberts, who won \$1,250. Tome Hendrickson won \$500; \$100 went to Keith Cochran; and \$50 was won by Max Beckman.

The real winner of the day was Joe Schmall. Joe has been a driving force behind the show from the beginning. The man has AIDS and has been hospitalized three times last year. He is a survivor, and though he is much slimmer than last year, he was there, he made it happen, and he is fighting for his life to be around next year for the Fifth Annual Castro Street Dog Show and Parade.



Winners of Castro Dog Show and their owners take a final grand bow before an appreciative crowd of onlookers. (Photo: T. Plewak)



Lee Meriwether and Sylvester (Photo: R. Pruzan)

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Suspect Described as "Troubled"

Fiery End to 'Gay Bombings'

Authorities Charge Man in String of 24 Explosions in Midwest

by Brian Jones

A man described by his sister as emotionally disturbed and distraught over being Gay has been charged in connection with a string of 24 bombings in the Upper Midwest.

The pipe bombs were planted in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Chicago. Six persons were injured, none of them seriously, in separate detonations. Accompanying the bombs were similar notes crediting the "North Central Gay Strike Force."

The bombings, from May 25 to June 5, came at a time when Gay-related scandals were headlined in the Minneapolis press. The first bomb was discovered about 60 miles northwest of Minneapolis the day

after the state's Supreme Court ordered a Gay judge removed from the bench.

Earl Steven Karr, 24, is charged with a single federal count of "possession of an unregistered firearm." He was

apprehended on Saturday in Mason City, Iowa, when his car exploded. Karr is in a St. Paul hospital with first- and second-degree burns covering his face and arms.

Federal authorities said they found pipes, AAA batteries, and black powder in the remains of the suspect's car, and identical paraphernalia in the low-rent Minneapolis boarding house where Karr has been lodging for the past two months.

A statement accompanying a federal search warrant alleged that the materials found in the suspect's car and home were identical to those found in several of the bombs which were dismantled before exploding.

Karr was arraigned on bond of \$300,000 Tuesday in his hospital bed, during a closed-door hearing attended only by himself, a doctor, the judge, and a bailiff.

In a copyrighted interview, the *Minneapolis Tribune* quoted Karr's sister, of Houston, as saying the family had twice committed Karr to psychiatric hospitals, only to have the hospitals release him after short stays. The suspect's sister said Karr has been "under psychiatric treatment most of his life."

About one and a half years ago, "he said he was Gay. We thought his getting that out would help him, but it didn't. He got worse. He was like a boiling pot, and it was very difficult to comfort him. He told us he felt like he could harm himself, or other people," the sister was quoted as saying.

Karr is believed to have been living in Minneapolis for two months, recently arrived from Houston. Minneapolis Gay activists have never heard of anyone by that name, said Tim Campbell, publisher of *GLC Voice*, the Minneapolis Gay newspaper. However, authorities had released no photographs of the suspect as of midweek, so Gay leaders were unsure if Karr had been known around town under an alias.

The bombings came at a time of high tension for Gays in Minnesota. District Court Judge Crane Winton was thrown off the bench last month following a disclosure two years ago that he paid male prostitutes for sex. Winton had acknowledged using prostitutes but promised not to do so again, and publicly came out as a Gay man during the case.

Shortly after Winton was removed from office, the popular head of the Minneapolis Children's Theatre and several staff members were arrested and charged with having sex with minor students under their direction.

Quote of the Week

"Politics sucks. Gay politics sucks. It all sucks. You can either run away from it, or you can stay in there and fight!" — Screenwriter, AIDS activist Larry Kramer, speaking at a Boston conference.

— Gay Community News, Boston

Hetero Sex Ban Proposal Admitted 'Backlash' Ruse

by George Mendenhall

An initiative that would "prohibit sexual activity between adults in bathhouses, hot tubs, saunas, and massage parlors known to the public to be frequented by heterosexuals" because of the spread of herpes was introduced by writer/activist Dion Sanders last week. Sanders, who is on leave-of-absence as a *Bay Area Reporter* writer, admitted that his initiative is "a backlash reaction to the city's attempt to regulate sexual activity in Gay bathhouses because of the AIDS epidemic."

"I am opposed to any sexual regulation in the bathhouses," Sanders insists, "but the city is guilty of violating its own law against sexual discrimination if it attempts to regulate only Gay businesses. The city is establishing an illegal double-standard. My proposal is to point out the hypocrisy."

The currently proposed bathhouse guidelines which the City Attorney released last week specify "male" sexual activity and are clearly not binding on heterosexual-oriented bathhouses.

Developments in the last week — the cancellation of a public hearing on the proposed bathhouse guidelines and a new proposal by Supervisor Harry Britt to prohibit any sexual regulation — has put Sanders' proposal on the back burner. He says, "I hope my action has some effect on changing the situation. I hope I do not have to circulate initiative petitions."

The next move is up to the city. This has been a tactical move and I hope the city now realizes that it cannot discriminate."

The activist was displeased with a move by the Toklas Democratic Club last Monday night when the club took the Sanders proposal seriously but overwhelmingly rejected the initiative and supported a motion by member Gerry Parker requesting that Lesbians and Gay men not sign the petitions.

No petitions have been published by Sanders. He can begin to circulate them beginning on June 28 with an August deadline. He would have to garner 7,332 signatures.

Larry Littlejohn proposed a similar initiative earlier in the year which would have prohibited sexual activity in all bathhouses. That initiative was never pursued, as the city health director moved to restrict all sexual activity in male-oriented bathhouses.

CUAV Forum on Violence June 19

Polk Street Town Hall and Community United Against Violence (CUAV) will host a community forum on violence on the street Tuesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m., at Old First Church, located at the corner of Sacramento St. and Van Ness Ave.

The forum will feature speakers from the Police Department, Lt. Gurnett from Northern Station, and representatives from community organizations such

as CUAV, Larkin St. Youth Center, and Hospitality House. The forum will focus on street violence, how individual citizens can protect themselves, how the community can work to alleviate the increasing incidence of violence, and appropriate police response to this community need.

For additional information, call Greg Day at 673-0911 or CUAV at 864-7233.

No Cause for Panic

(Continued from page 9)

probably very conservative estimate of the number of gay men in San Francisco is 55,000, this represents less than 1% of the population. Now, this does fit the specialized meaning of the word "epidemic" in the medical profession, but it is hardly the foundation for the hysteria and panic that the use of the word breeds among non-professionals. Health professionals should be aware of the vast difference in the usages of this word, but that awareness is not reflected in the way it is constantly being used to coerce changes.

The rise in the number of cases has not skyrocketed as the epidemiologists were screaming it would a year ago. Just because more straight people know what and how often we do it doesn't mean the frequency has increased. There were proportionately just as many gay men in the world a century ago having just as much sexual contact, when the straights didn't know about it, as there are today. It is, therefore, hard for me to accept that our promiscuity is suddenly responsible for the downfall of our immune systems.

In light of what I have said, I hope that every gay person will join me in opposing Dr. Marcus Conant's recently reported proposal to head a half-million dollar media campaign. When I first met this man two years ago at an AIDS conference, my impressions were that he was homophobic and moralistic. These impressions were con-

firmed in my mind whenever he spoke during the conference, and continue to be confirmed in everything I read by him. I am told that his sexual orientation is gay; if this is true, then, in my mind, he is simply living proof that homophobia and homosexual orientation are not exclusive entities.

We have enough problems right now with the real crisis of the disease, its effects on the community, and a politically scheming mayor. We certainly don't need someone in charge of our health education who advocates gay male celibacy as the answer to the crisis. The very fact that he has reportedly made his proposal "in secret" makes me suspect his motives. If he gets his money, the AIDS foundation and other gay organizations are sure to get less.

While we need the help of everyone to conquer the problem, we, the entire gay community, must remain in charge of the battle. It is *our* lives at stake. We have conquered other crises, and if we remain strong and fearless we will conquer this one too. However, it must be without one iota of a step backwards in our advancement as a culture.

Please take the time right now to send a letter to Harry Britt and one other Supervisor telling them that you want this proposal axed right now. While you're at it, write to Mayor Feinstein, and let her know we won't settle for simplistic solutions to such a complex problem.

R. D. Pettyjohn

Shanti Plans

Shanti Project will begin three new support groups in June. These groups are being established so that Shanti can continue to provide services to non-AIDS clients in San Francisco. The three new groups are for those facing life-threatening illness, anticipatory grief, and bereavement.

Each group meets weekly for a period of two hours. The

groups provide a setting to meet other persons facing similar situations and an opportunity to both give and receive support. Groups are facilitated by experienced volunteer counselors and staff members who emphasize peer support and non-judgmental listening rather than advice giving and problem solving. Group members are

asked to make a commitment to attend the group for a least four weeks after the first meeting.

In addition to these non-AIDS groups, Shanti Project will continue to offer support groups and individual counseling for people with AIDS, for their lovers, families and friends, and for people grieving the death of someone with AIDS.

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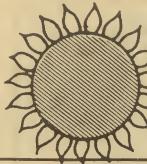
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Hundreds Gather to Honor Donna Hitchens and the Lesbian Rights Project

On Friday, June 8, at the Wattis Founders Room of Davies Symphony Hall, nearly 300 supporters of the Lesbian Rights Project gathered to celebrate the Project's sixth anniversary. It was an emotional evening for attendees, too, since the event marked Donna Hitchens' departure as founder and Directing Attorney of the LRP to become a Staff Attorney for the Northern California American Civil Liberties Union.

As described by Hitchens, until six years ago the Lesbian Rights Project was no more than a dream of low-cost, high-quality legal services for women and men — discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation. With the support of Equal Rights Advocates (a public interest law firm specializing in sex discrimination law), and a \$10,000 grant from the Berkeley Law Foundation, Hitchens founded the LRP in 1977.

The Project quickly became known for its expertise in Lesbian mother custody cases, publishing the *Lesbian Mother Litigation Manual* in 1982. The publication of *Lesbians Choosing Motherhood: Legal Implications in Donor Insemination* provided a unique resource for Lesbians considering motherhood via donor insemination.

On February 11 of this year the LRP co-sponsored the first conference ever to address the legal, medical, and social consequences of this method of conception.

Since its establishment, the Lesbian Rights Project has grown from a one-woman operation focusing on Lesbian

motherhood cases to a multi-service legal center with two attorneys, two law clerks, a fundraiser, and support staff.

Recent activities include a suit against the State of California on behalf of a State employee who was denied equal access to family benefits due to his sexual orientation, representation of two women involuntarily discharged from the Navy because of alleged Lesbianism, and filing of amicus (friend of the court) briefs in various cases throughout the country. In addition, the LRP provides technical assistance to lawyers who are litigating cases involving issues of sexual orientation and advice and counseling to Lesbians throughout the country who encounter discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and who seek redress through the courts.

Roberta Achtenberg, Staff Attorney for the Lesbian Rights Project for the past two years and former Dean at New College of California School of Law, is the Project's new Directing

Attorney. Roberta is the former Co-Chair of BALIF, the Lesbian and Gay bar association, and was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Bay Area. According to Ms. Achtenberg, increasing emphasis on test-case litigation, expansion of the LRP's educational conferences, and fundraising to enable the LRP to meet the overwhelming demand for services are among her priorities for the Lesbian Rights Project in the coming year.

As attendance at Friday's reception showed, the Lesbian Rights Project has tapped a critical need unmet by traditional legal and social institutions. Increased community support and success in building bridges to others who oppose discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation are continuing challenges that confront the LRP.

For further information on how you can help advance equal treatment for Lesbians and Gay men through the work of the LRP, contact Roberta Achtenberg, Lesbian Rights Project, 1370 Mission Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, 94103, (415) 621-0674.



Lesbian Rights Project Party: (l. to r.) Simone Fleming, Ron Albers, Roberta Achtenberg, and Tim Wolfred. (Photo: Rink)

Sex ID's Discussed at Science Conference

Psychologists, biologists, and social scientists approached the study of sexual identity in a variety of ways during a program entitled "The Bisexual, Heterosexual, and Homosexual Identities: Science, Politics, or Morality?" during the Pacific Division meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) at San Francisco State June 12.

Program organizer John De Cecco of the Center for Research and Education in Sexuality at San Francisco State said, "We suspect that not a great deal has been presented to the

AAAS on human sexuality in the past." Even those who have studied the subject, he added, were further enlightened.

Among the presentations were:

- A study of women among Native Americans who adopted the clothing and sexual identities of men, and were accepted as such (Evelyn Blackwood, Dept. of Anthropology, San Francisco State);

- A look at cultures in Melanesia in which males occupy three distinct ritual sexual identities — homosexual, bisexual, and heterosexual — in their life-

times (Gilbert Herdt, Dept. of Anthropology, Stanford);

- A refutation of the recurrent idea that sexual identity is locked in the genes — that one is born homosexual or heterosexual (Douglas Futuyma, Dept. of Ecology and Evolution, SUNY Stony Brook; and Stephen Risch, Dept. of Entomology, UC Berkeley);

- A study of the lives of Lesbians over 65 (Monika Kehoe, Center for Research and Education in Sexuality, SFSU); and

- An argument that research into sexual identity cannot be accurate without recognition of the bisexual identity (Jay Paul, Dept. of Psychology, UC Berkeley).

New Data Released on Drug Abuse Patterns Among Gays and Lesbians

The San Francisco Prevention Resource Center announced last week the availability of *Substance Abuse: Patterns & Barriers to Treatment for Gay Men and Lesbians in San Francisco*. This pivotal study commissioned by the Division of Drug Programs' Gay/Lesbian Task Force and funded by the Division of Drug Programs, Community Substance Abuse Services amasses data about drug and alcohol use patterns and use of treatment options for Gay men and Lesbians in San Francisco.

Edward Morales, Ph.D. and Michael Graves, M.A. were hired in Spring 1983 to conduct the study. Over 3,000 questionnaires were distributed to members of the San Francisco Gay/Lesbian community. Significant findings include:

- Alcohol was the most popular substance used by over 70% of the subjects.

• Marijuana and hashish were the drugs of primary choice, second to alcohol.

- An overall level of problematic drug use among Gay men and Lesbians of 20.2% was established. This is 5% higher than the problem drug use level of the general population used by State authorities in allocating funds to San Francisco.

- Lesbians had a higher level of problematic drug use than Gay men.

- Under 50% of those surveyed were aware of the various existing community resources that might be appropriate to Lesbians and Gay clients.

- Of all Gay men sampled 9% reported intravenous use of methamphetamine which is an at-risk behavior for AIDS.

Morales and Graves also surveyed 98 drug and alcohol service providers finding gaps in ex-

perience with Gay-identified clients and 10% of the providers having homophobic attitudes.

The Gay/Lesbian Task Force presented Community Substance Abuse Services with a series of recommendations for improved service delivery which CSAS is actively pursuing. These include a standing committee on Gay/Lesbian Substance Abuse issues, recommended Gay/Lesbian sensitivity training for drug service providers, Gay/Lesbian specialists within all county-funded drug treatment contracts, explanation of additional funds for increased services, and support for further research in this area.

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POLITICS AND POKER

It's Not How You Play — It's The Score That Counts



WAYNE FRIDAY

Tough Hart delegates swept the delegates races in the 6th congressional district (part of the city and pro-Hart Marin County), John Molinari turned out to be the leading vote-getter on the Mondale slate . . . City Hall friends tell me that Supervisor Willie Kennedy, an early Jackson supporter, has promises from Jesse that he will be back here in the fall campaigning for Kennedy when she will be fighting to keep her Board seat . . . Those boos and hisses for supervisory candidate Kevin Starr when his name was mentioned at last week's Milk Club dinner should have come as no surprise; Milk himself had no use for Starr (Harvey used to refer to Starr as "the Examiner's Starr reporter, Kevin McSneer"). A lot of activists, who aren't exactly wild about Willie Kennedy, will be working hard for her because most can't stand the thought of Starr becoming a supervisor.

The Health Department's Dr. Merv. Silverman, appearing on Sunday's KGO-TV news program "Roundtable," joined in criticizing that "co-ed" bathhouse owner and his cohorts who burned valuable AIDS information ("Can We Talk?") on television last week, and reports have it that even bathhouse owners are embarrassed at the incident. Some readers have called me to remind me that similar "burning" incidents were used in Nazi Germany years ago — someone owes an apology on this one.

Regulars at the Alta Plaza were surprised Sunday night to find La Cage producer Allan Carr holding court with some of his friends at one table while SAG President, actor Ed ("Lou Grant") Asner, was having dinner at another table with Harry Britt and Ron Huberman . . . In Des Moines, Iowa, Rich Eychaner, a Gay rights activist who lost the Republican nomination for Congress, says "this just wasn't the year" for a Gay to win the election; Eychaner placed 2nd in a four-way race in Iowa's 4th Congressional District . . . Jack Molinari's super political consultant, Ron Smith, won some of the biggest campaigns in the state last Tuesday — Dean Dana, Smith's candidate for L.A. County Supervisor, won while spending nearly 1½ million bucks — Neil Eisenberg, Mondale's Northern California chair, cracked that Mondale's entire operation in California looked small in comparison (the Mondale campaign spent only \$300,000 in the entire state); another Smith client, Becky Morgan, was a big winner in the peninsula's 11th State Senatorial District.

Friends of Israel ecstatic over Don Solem's defeat of Prop. E in Berkeley; the measure proposed to cut aid to Israel, and during the final weeks of the campaign money poured in from Jewish interests to insure its defeat . . . Milton Marks' supporters are telling their man to wake up to the fact he has his first serious challenge in years; Democrat Lia Belli already running television ads and she received a big vote in the primary and some are warning that there aren't enough Bar Mitzvahs and weddings scheduled between now and November to carry Milton in this one; but don't underestimate the veteran campaigner, Marks.

In Baltimore, Maryland, a proposed Gay rights ordinance will probably die in committee says City Council President Clarence Burns; he claims public reaction is running 20-1 against the proposal . . . and in Houston, 58 Ku Klux Klan members, guarded by hundreds of cops in riot gear, marched Saturday through the heart of the city's Gay community to protest "acceptance of the Gay lifestyle in Houston. No serious incidents were reported during the march, with most Gays ignoring completely or poking fun at the robed marchers . . . Gay activists in San Diego lining up early to support the incumbent pro-Gay Mayor Roger Hedgecock, who was forced into a runoff by his conservative Republican challenger.

A lot of city workers dis-



Lia Belli

pointed at the defeat of Prop. A; no dental benefits for them in the near future . . . and thank God the Democratic Central Committee races are over — I've never seen such wheeling and

dealing over such insignificant posts . . . Gay activists in San Jose celebrating the upset defeat of that city's anti-Gay Councilman Claude Fletcher in last week's election . . . Tom Horn's party Sunday for Harry Britt was one of the nicer political parties I have been to in a long while, but with Tom Horn as the host and television's Ed Asner as the star attraction, how could you lose?

Friends of Mayor Feinstein are holding a birthday celebration in her honor at the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum in Golden Gate Park on Friday, June 22, from 5:30 to 7:30 (fix at \$125 per) . . . and a group of San Francisco friends are holding a \$25 fundraiser for East Bay Assemblyman Tom Bates, long a supporter of Gay rights, at the home of Agar and Diana Jaicks the same evening (5-7 p.m.; 731-8498 for info).

People breathing easier now that conservative businessman Robert Guichard's effort to reduce the Board of Supes was so handily defeated. An unusual coalition of political consultants

helped defeat this one — Mary O'Shea (Willie Kennedy's consultant), Anthony Garrett (Molinari), Dick Pabich (Britt), Jack Davis (Kopp), and Richard Schackman all lent their talents to defeat the Guichard scheme.

Rosalind Wyman, the former L.A. City Council member who is now the top boss (Chief Executive Officer) of next month's Demo convention, is fast becoming the most sought-after party guest in San Francisco . . . Actress Lana Turner, who was a no-show at a recently scheduled Lia Belli fundraiser, passed up the opportunity to endorse Belli while in town last week to attend Pat Montandon's "Children as Teachers of Peace" dinner. Asked if she wanted to endorse Belli, Turner snapped, "I don't say whether I'm a Republican or Democrat; I don't discuss politics." . . . The Marks-Belli contest promises to be expensive. Reports filed with the Fair Political Practices Commission show Belli having already raised over \$160,000, while Marks received over \$181,000; and it's a long time until November.

Health Challenges for Ethnic and Sexual Minorities



Morning Session: Health Issues for Multiple Minorities

8:30-9:30 Registration

9:30-10:50 Panel Presentation

Panel Chair: Edward S. Morales, Ph.D.
UCSF-AIDS Health Project,
Project Administrator
Clinical & Consulting Psychologist

Presenters:
Health issues: Garth Collins, M. Ed., M.P.H.
S.F. Dept. of Public Health, Health Center II
Mental Health: Phil Tsui, M.S.W.;
Asian Treatment Program, Pacific Medical Ctr.
UCSF-Department of Psychiatry
Substance Abuse: Celinda Cantu, M.S.W.
Citywide Alcoholism Advisory Board of S.F.
Drug Program Consultant, Alameda Co.
Aging: C. Bruce Lee, Ph.D.
Former Assistant Regional Director, Region IX
Department of Health Education and Welfare
Networking in Health Services:
Bernice Goodman, M.S., A.C.S.W.
National Gay Health Education Foundation
President, New York City

11:00-12:20 Workshops and Discussion Groups

12:30-1:15 Key Note Address, Speaker: Pat Norman, M.A., Coordinator of Lesbian/Gay Services, S.F. Department of Public Health

SPONSORS: S.F. Department of Public Health; Community Substance Abuse Services of S.F.; UCSF-AIDS Health Project; S.F. AIDS Foundation; Sixth Lesbian/Gay Health Conference, N.Y.C.; UCSF Department of Psychiatry.

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Human Rights Commission Rips Race Bias in Gay Businesses

Report Says 'Old-Boy Network' Shuts Out Non-White Gays from Jobs

by Dian B. Sanders

Gay and Lesbian people of color are almost totally absent from the workforce of Gay-owned businesses, and the hiring practices of those businesses systematically exclude them from jobs, according to a report released by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission

The 128-page document, approved unanimously by the commission at its May meeting is the end result of 18 months of parallel investigations by the commission, its Lesbian/Gay advisory committee, the San Francisco chapter of Black and White Men Together, the Golden Gate Business Association, and a coalition of 14 other Lesbian/Gay organizations.

Jackie Winnow, the commission's liaison to the Lesbian/Gay community, is the principal author of the report.

The commission found that the hiring practices of Gay-owned businesses "are primarily accomplished through the system of an 'old-boy/girl network,' meaning that applicants for jobs got them through knowing someone in the business.

It also found that applicant pools and training programs "do not currently exist in the Lesbian/Gay business community to draw qualified applicants;" that there are no voluntary affirmative-action programs; that Gay business associations "have not encouraged minority participation, nor do they have the structures to deal with grievances."

The commission report said that non-White Gays and their allies "fear reprisals (such as firings) in their attempts to address (racially motivated) unfair employment practices," and that many Third World Gays "feel frustrated at their in-

visibility and are at the edge of boycotting and taking other strong actions (such as lawsuits) if the issues of racism and exclusionary hiring and employment practices are not addressed or ameliorated." "Issues of race and concerns of minority Lesbians and Gay men are not sufficiently addressed (by the Gay media)," it added.

The report noted that 875 workforce surveys — 275 issued by the commission and 600 by the GGBA — were sent to Gay-owned bars, restaurants, nightclubs, hotels, gyms, bathhouses, retail stores, service shops, financial institutions, newspapers and Gay business professionals.

"Although procuring the actual number of Lesbian and Gay businesses (in San Francisco) was in reality an impossible task, we (the commission) thought that through the forms we could gain an indication of the minority, women and male caucasian employees in the (Gay business) workforce," the report said.

Of the 975 surveys sent, only 29 businesses responded, the report continued. Ten were service companies, seven were professionals, six were bars, three were sales agencies, two were private clubs and one was a restaurant.

All of the respondents were invited to testify at two public hearings the commission held last November. Only three

showed up — Hank Wilson, owner of the Ambassador Hotel; Toni Macante, owner of Macante's (women's) Bar; and Russell Kassman, owner of Kassman's Piano and Organ Stores.

In all, 25 people testified at the hearings. In addition to the three business owners, 12 were representatives of various Lesbian/Gay political, labor, business and social organizations and 10 gave individual testimonies.

The commissioners noted that several Gay businesses in the Castro — and at least two straight-owned businesses there — have already added non-White Gays to their workforce.

Among the recommendations to increase minority Gay hiring and promotion that the commission proposed, they included urging Gay business associations such as GGBA to adopt anti-discrimination policies as a condition for membership and that member businesses publicly state that their businesses do not discriminate in employment — and patronage.

The commission also recommends that business associations hold workshops on racism "in a sensitive honest environment" and on affirmative-action programs; and that member businesses "commit themselves to a master affirmative-action program worked out between the HRC and their business association.

One such workshop has already been held by GGBA at the Pride Center.

Other recommendations by the commission include having a Gay person of color write a column speaking to issues of race and employment in business associations' newsletters; conducting meetings with minority community organizations for further "needs assessments;" establishing and utilizing a pool of qualified job applicants, thus breaking the "old boy network"; and advertising through the media and employment agencies any job openings. ■



Dignity was welcomed into their new home at St. Boniface Church with a capacity overflow crowd of 750 celebrants, representatives from all religious denominations, and a shake-the-house musical salute on Pentecost Sunday, June 10. (Photo: Savage Photography)

Texas Gay Serial Launched

Dallas - It had to happen sooner or later. In this city, the home of J.R. and the Ewing clan, Dallas is going to be the setting of a Gay soap opera — but not on the tube.

The *Dallas/Fort Worth Gay News* announced that it is publishing a weekly series called "Dallas Diary" this week. "Considering the popularity of Dallas and *Dynasty* (and what

Gay bar with a TV set isn't tuned in on Wednesdays and Fridays?) this new weekly continuing story is a natural," said a *Gay News* spokesman.

"Dallas Diary" tells the story of Paul Andrews, a 26-year-old Gay man who moved to the predominantly-Gay Cedar Springs area of the Big D two years ago and is constantly confused, amused, appalled, and loved by a series of friends and lovers.

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BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Lesbian, Gay Week

50 Gay Years at Stanford

U. President Speaks to Group, While Alumni Reveal Long History of Activism

For the first time, a president of Stanford University has spoken before a Gay group — though university President Donald Kennedy stopped short of expressing support for a campus non-discrimination clause to protect Lesbians and Gays.

The occasion was Gay and Lesbian Awareness (GALA) Week, an annual conference featuring scholars, artists, civic leaders, and mass participation activities designed to increase the understanding of Gay issues, successes, and problems amongst members of the campus community.

Some of the assembled crowd of Stanford deans, faculty, alumni, and students, many of whom had given valuable support to Gay students over the past twenty years, were disgruntled that Kennedy has yet to support inclusion of a sexual orientation clause in the nondiscrimination policy of the university. Despite the addition of such clauses at over 40 major universities, including the University of California and the State University of New York, Kennedy has been cool toward any addition to the Stanford policy. Some invited guests chose not to attend on the basis of Kennedy's position.

Speaker Andrew Lisac, a Stanford alumnus, stated after the reception, "We received a few advance warnings from supporters of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GLAS) in the Stanford community who were none too pleased about including Kennedy in the celebration. The prevalence of sexual bigotry on this campus is a very sensitive issue. Some perceive the problem as worsening. They cite incidents of job discrimination at the career placement center, the defacement of George Segal's 'Gay Liberation' sculpture in March, and the disturbing knowledge that many influential staff members are continuing their closeted activities."

These factors, Lisac said, plus the problems associated with affirmative action in tenured positions, Gov. George Deukmejian's veto of Assembly Bill 1, and the profound psychological impact of the AIDS affliction, "are part of a seige mind-set in virtually every circle I know. The real point of this reception, in my view, was to encounter just such despair, to reinvigorate the people who have worked the hardest over the years for open Gay men and Lesbians, and to spur them on to greater accomplishments."

In his address, Lisac offered personal anecdotes about the decade of achievements, and compared Kennedy's "new ideas" approach to that of the early campus activists. "Ten years ago a couple of people in this crowd started what was to become Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week. It took creativity, vigor, innovation, and a lot of courage to convince people that a band of crazy students in a rickety old building had something positive and valuable to say about diversity at Stanford."

Stressing the need for community service, Lisac said, "Many people who worked hard at GLAS during that time are now doctors, attorneys, artists,

fundraisers, or what have you. Not only are they still very involved in Gay civil rights, they are also now involved in other kinds of public service." He concluded that GLAS had raised awareness about Gays in school and in society, and had also had a tremendous impact on Gay students who learned the importance of service to the community. "We learned well the benefits of coalition-building," he said.

GLAS spokesperson Jeff Williams congratulated his fellow students or organizing the well-attended 1984 GALA Week events. Included on this year's program were lectures on homosexuality in the USSR; commercial marketing to the Gay community; Gay scientist Alan Turing, a founding father of computer science and artificial intelligence; and a poetry reading by Paula Gunn Allen. Harry Hay, a former Stanford student who came out to his dorm in the late 1930's, gave a lecture and workshop with long-time companion John Burnside on founding the Mattachine Society in 1950, and on Gay radicalism. Other popular events were Gay Family Day, the Lesbian Shorts Film Series, and the Governor's Ball at the GLAS Community Center.

'It took . . . a lot of courage to convince people that a band of crazy students . . . had something positive . . . to say about . . . Stanford.'

Williams stressed the need to fight for a fuller agenda of issues and risked embarrassing Kennedy by addressing these issues directly. "Some battles have been won. Still, we need a non-discrimination policy for the university in admissions. We need protection in housing, protection in employment. Ultimately we need an atmosphere in which we can reintegrate ourselves with the community as a whole, but with one difference, that we are completely out of the closet."

University President Donald Kennedy thanked the speakers for their introductions and praised the audience for a long history of achievements. "I am very grateful for what a lot of people in this room have done over the years for this university . . . in the way of providing all kinds of services and intellectual enlightenment to this place. I hope that in the next decade your sense of strength, confidence, and organization will help you do more as a group along with your important individual contributions."

asked this university to take a stand against using Gays as an example for those who gloat in their own hatred and bigotry. We need Gay alumni groups to place pressure and money on the right spots. These are the things we must fight for, and fight hard, for otherwise we simply acquiesce to bigotry overall."

"We are entering a new era," said Lisac after the reception. "We have set up something called the Gay Studies Foundation which we hope will join students, faculty, and alumni in an effort to include more Gay-related courses and lectures in the academic environment. But we need assistance, both in

organization and funding. I am very excited about the possibilities because students come to Stanford from all over the world, and if we can focus on what we do best, and that is to provide students with a rigorous intellectual framework with which they can make informed decisions in society, then I hope our activities will greatly influence the leaders of tomorrow."

Alumni or persons wishing to help the Gay Studies Foundation at Stanford are urged to contact Andrew Lisac at (415) 497-0566, or GLAS Steering Committee member David Herrera at (415) 497-1488 ■

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Hewlitt-Packard's 'Waterloo'?

Canadian Town Dispute Becomes Int'l Issue

Ontario Gays Seek Bay Area Help In Fight For Rights Ordinance

by Charles Linebarger

The city of Waterloo, near Toronto, Canada, refused to pass an ordinance earlier this year outlawing discrimination based on sexual preference. In response, the Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Media Collective decided to take matters into its own hands. Hearing that the Hewlitt-Packard Company, headquartered in Palo Alto, was considering opening a manufacturing plant in Waterloo, the Gay Collective wrote the president of the company, J. A. Young, requesting that a view of Waterloo's inaction, the company not locate a plant in the city.

Hewlitt-Packard forwarded the request to its Canadian Public Relations Director, Robert McDevitt. His letter in response to the Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Media Collective's request stated that the company is committed to equal employment opportunity regardless of sexual orientation. But he did not address directly the collective's request that Hewlitt-Packard rethink its plans to open a plant in Waterloo.

Greg Meadows and Joe Szalai, of the Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Media Collective, who initiated the exchange with Hewlitt-Packard, then forwarded a package of documents to the *Bay Area Reporter*. They hoped to publicize their efforts to bring pressure to bear on the Waterloo City Council through Hewlitt-Packard.

The *Bay Area Reporter* interviewed the corporate manager of public relations for the com-

pany, Roy Verlay, to find out what the position of the Hewlitt-Packard is to the demands of the Canadian Gay group. Verlay said, that as far as Hewlitt-Packard was concerned, this was a "non-issue."

Verlay said that because of the company's commitment to equal employment regardless of sexual preference, the action of the Canadian city in regards to a Gay rights ordinance was irrelevant. "We as employers have our own policies on this," Verlay said.

Meadows and Szalai of the Gay Media Collective, in their letter to the *Bay Area Reporter*, mentioned that one of their reasons for writing to the headquarters of H-P in California, rather than to the Canadian head offices, was because of the assumed better political climate in California for Gay Rights. Unsaid was another possible assumption — the political clout of Gays in the San Francisco

Bay Area, where Hewlitt-Packard is headquartered.

According to Verlay, the company only has an option to buy a piece of land in Waterloo. Nothing has been decided yet — and if it appears that this is going to become a bone of contention either in Canada or in the Bay Area Gay Community, the company would address that situation when it arrived. The intimation is that Hewlitt-Packard may be sensitive to the needs and wishes of the Gay community.

Concerned individuals who would like to aid the company's management officers in seeing this decision as one where Gay sensibilities need to be addressed, may write to Roy Verlay, Corporate Press Relations Manager, Hewlitt-Packard Company, 1501 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304.

Post cards and letters directly to the Waterloo City Council in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, asking why the city council has refused to pass a Gay Rights ordinance couldn't hurt either.

Pride Week Celebrations This Weekend in Berkeley, San Jose

Convention.

Music will be provided by Vera Spa, Larry Smith, Gwen Avery, Jon Sugar, and Barry and the BarryTones. Other speakers, musicians and dramatists are also scheduled for the celebration which is set to run through 6 p.m.

In San Jose, Linda Clifford headlines a free outdoor concert which begins at noon Sunday in Saint James Park Downtown. Other performers will include the Four Skins, the Liedermann Gay Men's Chorus, and the San Jose Women's Chorus. The program is set to run through 5 p.m.

Come Out and Cheer

The Hayward Raw Rabs will present Homecoming '84 with entertainment by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the Barbary Coast Cloggers, the Oakland Marching Corps., the Emperor and Empress of ACIE, the Raw Rabs '83, the 1984 Hayward Raw Rabs, and guest star Jeanie Tracy. All this and more this Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Spoiled Brat, 875 A St., Hayward, on the corner of A Street and Mission Boulevard. There will be a \$2 cover charge that will include one free well drink or domestic beer. A buffet will be served from 8 to 9 p.m.



Donnie, Joseph, Michael, Norman, Kevin, Captain Guy Andrade, and Steve will be at Homecoming '84 this Saturday. Will you?

Fifty percent of the proceeds from the event will go to East Bay AIDS, and the other 50%

will go towards the Raw Rabs expenses for competing in Los Angeles.

OAKLAND

A Hot Time

NEZ PAS

ESQUIRE/DAMSEL CONCUPISCENT & PAWKY PEERESS V
(A Wigged Nose?)

Thank goodness for the Bay Area's natural air conditioning. Upstairs at the Jubilee would have been a virtual roast had not the windows been open to allow the foggy breezes to cool us all down. And cooling down we did need, all because of a transplant from Modesto, Jimmy Dee.

This petite bundle of dynamite can really belt out a song alive — and I'm sure that his booking calendar received many commitments that Sunday evening, June 3. Standing ovations greeting the conclusions of his two numbers surely allowed Jimmy Dee to make his mark on this side of the Bay. Watch for him at future functions — like Ed Paulson's birthday bash later this month?

The occasion for his appearance was the Fifth Annual Mr. and Miss Gay/Foxy Lady, Alameda County. Scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. Carlos was naturally concerned that by 4 p.m. very few people had arrived. But, dribbling in by 2's, 3's, 4's, and 6's, the place was packed by 5, and the show commenced. Perhaps this tardiness was due to a minimal advertising campaign (unlike previous years), and absolutely NO campaign posters, perhaps due to several of the contestants being recruited at the last minute.

Last year's winners were in attendance, even Little John (remember him?), as were Lady

Randi and, of course, Little Mother. All three sat royally and dutifully on their soon-to-be-relinquished thrones. Running for Mr. Gay V were Paul Multon, Little Debbie, and Joe Garza; for Miss Gay, Lady Fugi, unopposed; for Foxy Lady, Alison Van Damn and, yep, you guessed it, Little Mother.

The contestants parade in casual wear, formal wear, and swim wear. They all managed to make the changes without any difficulty — all, that is, but Little Mother. The only thing she changed was her lipstick. The new Mr. Gay, Alameda County, is Joe Garza; Miss Gay, Lady Fugi, and, of course — you guessed it — Foxy Lady Five and more as long as she is alive, Little Mother (due totally, I'm sure, to Charles' wonderful blond wig). Little Mother did receive, and deservedly so, the evening's Humanitarian Award.

This benefit was for the Oakland Float and Marching Units, co-headed by Jank and Juan. And, yes, Jim Brendon is involved with the float again this year because "I do love Oakland."

Several entertainment/dance breaks prolonged the evening, but, once again, Jimmy Dee was well worth the prolonging. Tommi Rose (remember her?) did her typical phrenetic routine, but methinks she got too enthusiastic. Twirling a woman on her shoulders and quickly dumping said woman on the floor is just a big too untidy; especially when said woman

(Continued on next page)



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(Continued from previous page)

lands hard and connects cranium with chair. I really doubt if that part was a rehearsed portion of the number. Perhaps Ms. Rose should limit her zealously to inanimate objects from now on.

People make the party, to be sure, and PARTY we did — Oakland and Oakland, Oakland and Hayward. It's good to see men and women both sharing the fun and excitement — and entertainment — at this kind of event. Thanks to Betty, Val, and the Jubilee. (Er, just WHAT do you use in your screwdrivers?)

Carol, I DO want THAT picture(s), and please don't think blackmale!

GRANDIOSE LACUNA? (A Lotto Nose?)

Fat Freddie's Paradise Bar and Grill held its Grand Opening last weekend, and the patio was the perfect spot for this grandiose soiree. Fred fired up the ol' barbecue and there were weiners and burgers for days. Unfortunately, limited advertising took its toll, because Fred's usual overflow crowd didn't materialize on Saturday. We sun-worshippers who did attend, however, got into the party spirit and spirits! One burlesque variance did occur. Just what does it take to make 30 to 40 party goers all quiet down at once? Well, dear ones, it's BINGO.

Several rounds of this most cherished and beloved of games resulted in an intense and very competitive couple of hours. Swearing that each game was "Fixed" with the winner's shout of "BINGO" momentarily broke the chronic silence. Then, back to more "four corners, x's, and blackouts." No, sweet reader, I didn't win one damn game. I guess my magic marker cheated!

John — and then Greg — were kept busy behind the outside bar, as the booze flowed.

A grand free buffet on Sunday climaxed this two-day celebration. Congratulations to Fred on his second enterprise in Oakland, May the Paradise and the Lake Lounge continue far into the future. Too bad for those who weren't there. You missed a really relaxing, sunny two days.

SAWYER EMULATION! (A Judging Nose!)

The afternoon of Freddie's Grand Opening, The Bench and Bar held its Third Annual Mr. Lumberjack Contest. A benefit, basically, for the Oakland Pom Poms and Marching Corps and Float, a nice crowd gathered to watch the competitive festivities. Once again, however, last minute contestants had to be coerced to enter. Thanks to Greg for rounding up the seven contestants.

The competition was divided into four categories: "Timber" yell; log sawing (one of the saws was actually sharpened); arm wrestling; and the log pond. The seven participating were: Richard Preston, Ron Holiday, Jerry Joint, Tim Shirley, Larry Brown, George Reuss, and Chriss Folker — these are actual names, folks!

After the first round, Larry disappeared, never to compete again!

The remaining rounds proved how much endurance the continuing competitors actually had. When it was announced that they would have to arm wrestle with Ruth Ann, they all boycotted until the rules were changed.

The three judges tallied their votes (and dried themselves off after the log rolling contest), and discovered that there had to be

BIG D AND LITTLE iKE

by Leslie Ewing



a run-off. Jim (owner of the Bench & Bar), Greg, and moi put our collective heads together and decided that, indeed, an additional "timber" yell was necessary to determine the winner.

Before this elimination, however, it was necessary to demonstrate just how the log rolling contest should be done. Greg took eight seconds; owners Jim and Steve took eleven and ten, respectively; John Drab took a total of 45 minutes.

After the final tabulation was concluded, the results were announced. The second runner-up was an elated and excited Ron Holiday; the first runner-up was the hunky Tim Shirley; and the grand winner of a weekend at Russian River was none other than Agnus — oops, excuse me — George Reuss!

Two pertinent things that I just "happened" to overhear: Ron and George were congratulating each other, saying that gray hair doesn't make a bit of difference; and Tim and George vying to compete again, against each other, next year. Tim is 21 and George is fiftyasslemithp.

Congratulations to all who entered. They were all winners just to show their stuff.

By the by, the piece of log sawed off in the log sawing contest was used by the sawee in the log rolling contest. So the one with the shortest log had the best advantage! Well?

NEZ'S NOTES:

- Rusty (of Rusty and Rusty bruit) changed the name of his business, but not the address. "Rusty's Secret Garden" is now "Rusty's Floral Designs," located at 5940 College Avenue, Oakland (658-3680). See him for any and all cut florals, gifts, and blooming plant ideas. Er, it's a treat just to see HIM.
- Why is Steve of Revol now called Mavass?
- Oh dear Warren of the QT, just what is happening with your bartender Tony and lover Jeff? Remember Tom? Don't compound disappointments, hon! By the by, Tony, THAT brunch was delicious, no matter what you say!
- Lady April re-appeared at the Lumberjack contest. What

every happened to . . .

- Stanley is now on the planks of the Paradise, and sometimes waits tables!
- Rhonda, watch out for Jimmy Dee. No one is a shew-in for Empress IV!
- When's the next basket auction? Two are scheduled for Hayward.

Getting there is only half as far as getting there and back! That makes me smile. Love,

Nez

VD Clinic

The Gay Men's Health Collective in Berkeley will hold a VD clinic by and for Gay men this Sunday from 7 to 9 p.m. at 2339 Durant Avenue, Berkeley. Free and confidential. For more information call 644-0425.

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THIS

THURSDAY 14

• **Fetal Positions:** stage performance by Lilith, a women's theater, Zephyr Theatre, 595 Mission St. at 2nd, S.F., 8 PM, \$5. An evening of monologues in a musical format exploring women's relation to reproduction.

• **Reflex:** dance/theater, The Loft, 301 8th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$10 advance. Choreographer/dancer Bob Stuart Murphy and a company of 10 men in an evening of dance and live music incorporating visual media.

• **Lesbian in the Labor Movement:** forum with Pat Cul (Carpenters No. 483), Nancy Elnor (AFT 1474 University Council), Nancy Fields (OPE Local 3), and Molly Martin (IBEW Local 6), Department Store Employees Local 1100, 1339 Mission St. at 10th, S.F., 7:30 to 9:30 PM, free. Sponsored by the San Francisco National Organization for Women Labor Task Force, the Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance, and San Francisco CLUW. Refreshments.

• **Emmett: A One Mormon Show:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6

• **Bobbie Morris:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$5.

• **Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day:** monitor training session, Eureka Valley Community Center, 100 Collingwood St. at 18th, S.F., 7 to 10 PM.

• **Great Outdoors:** monthly potluck, 4058 18th St., S.F., 7:30 PM. This month's theme is Fruit Fantasy, and the head of the Great Outdoors Trails Education Program will speak on The Ten Uses of Panty Hose in the Great Outdoors. For more information call Brian at 821-6773.

• **San Francisco Hiking Club:** planning meeting, 260 Hartford St., S.F., 7:30 PM.

• **Tuffy Eldridge and Christa Hillhouse:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.

• **Bad Drama:** stage performance, by Richard Grey, directed by Robert W. Pittman, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2940 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8 and \$9.

• **Psycho-Killer:** stage performance, written and directed by Diana Saenz, Studio Rhino, 2940 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$6.

• **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, Theatre on the Square, 450 Post St., S.F., 8 PM, \$15 and \$18. Award-winning playwright Jane Chambers' play about Lesbian love and death.

• **FrontRunners:** Fun Run, meet at McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, S.F., 6 PM, free.



Mona Mandrake in *Midnight Mona* playing

• **Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez:** comedy, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM. Followed by DJ Torch at 9 PM.

• **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, \$17 and \$20 (see Thursday listing for details).

SATURDAY 16

• **Unity Celebration:** sponsored by San Francisco Gay Fathers, Arrival Lounge of Pier 35, S.F., 9 PM to 1 AM, \$15 advance, \$25 at the door. Includes live music with special appearances by Bay Area performers Debbie Saunders, pianist and blues singer, and singer Robert Erickson. Plenty of food, no host bar. For more information call the Gay Fathers Hotline at 285-6191.

• **Fetal Positions:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

• **SAGA:** community picnic/get together, McKinley Park, Sacramento, all day. Softball, volleyball, horseshoes, recreational swimming, tennis and a Fun Run (3k and 6k) including handicapped, bicycling, and rollerskating divisions.

• **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** bike ride to Alameda/Crown Beach, meet at Fruitvale BART station, 11 AM. Moderate pace with occasional stops and a few low hills, 30 miles. Bring lunch and a swimsuit, and watch or participate in a sandcastle building contest. For more information call John at 558-9776.

• **Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day:** monitor training session, The Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 11 AM to 4 PM.

• **Gay Comedy Night:** with emcee Marga Gomez and guests Karen Ripley, Mario Mondelli, and Ruby "Rodriguez" Rubenstein, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$4.

• **Midnight Mona:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

• **Reflex:** dance/theater (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Emmett: A One Mormon Show:** comedy (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Pam Brooks:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$5.

• **FrontRunners:** three to five-mile fun run and long distance training run, begins at Stow Lake Boat House, Golden Gate Park, 10 AM.

• **Bad Drama:** stage performance, \$9 and \$10 (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Psycho-Killer:** stage performance, \$7 (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, 5 PM, \$15 and \$18, 9 PM, \$17 and \$20 (see Thursday listing for details).

WEEK



playing at the Valencia Rose through July 1.

SUNDAY 17

- San Jose Gay Pride Celebration:** free outdoor concert with Linda Clifford, the Four Skins, the Liedermann Gay Men's Chorus of San Jose, and the San Jose Women's Chorus, St. James Park, downtown San Jose, noon to 5 PM. ~
- Swingshift:** music, Major Ponds, 2801 California St. at Divisadero, S.F., 8 PM, free. All-woman jazz band.
- Resorts for Sex Perverts:** a political history of Lesbian and Gay bars in San Francisco from 1930 to 1965, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$3. Allan Berube will present the history of Gay bars from the repeal of Prohibition to the "Gay Scandals" and mass arrests of the early 1960's.
- The Gay Life:** Eric Rofes, author of *I Thought People Like That Killed Themselves: Lesbians, Gay Men, and Suicide*, will discuss his book on KSAN, 95 FM, 6 AM.
- G40+:** cabaret, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. at Geary, S.F., 2 to 4 PM.
- San Francisco FrontRunners:** one-to three-mile run at Seac Cliff, begins at 10 AM at China Beach on the north end of 25th Ave., S.F.
- FOG Walk:** walking tour of Golden Gate Park, meet at 2038 22nd Ave., S.F., 10 AM, members \$3, guests \$4.
- Art Show and Auction:** sponsored by the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St., S.F., noon, \$2.50. An international collection of original oils, watercolors, lithographs, serigraphs, etchings, enamels, sculpture, and other artwork will be auctioned. An original Salvador Dali lithograph, hand signed and numbered, will be the door prize, champagne, cider, and cheese will be served.
- Ecumenical Church Service:** for Gay men and Lesbians, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1666 Bush St. at Gough, S.F., 7:30 PM. Author Malcolm Boyd will give the sermon, music will be provided by Dick Kramer's Gay Men's Chorale.
- Affirmation:** Gay and Lesbian Mormons meet in San Francisco at 7 PM. Call 641-0791 for details.
- Tupperware Party:** sponsored by congregation Ahavat Shalom, 1650 Page St., S.F., 2 PM.
- Twenty-fifth Anniversary:** Jack Hubbe and Rev. James E. Sandmire, pastor of the Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of their Holy Union, California Hall, second floor, 625 Polk St., S.F., following the 10:30 AM worship service.
- Fetal Positions:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- Midnight Mona:** stage performance, 8 PM, \$4 (see Friday listing for details).

- Bye-Bye Verdi:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 3:30 PM, \$5. A light-hearted look at Grand Opera with Sam Bittner and five local "stars of tomorrow."
- Bad Drama:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- The Linda Tillery Jazz Quartet:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM, free. With Mary Watkins, Bonnie Johnson and Mark Van Wageningen. Followed by DJ Susan Puckett at 9 PM.

MONDAY 18

- The June Millington Band:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, cover. With Vickie Randle, Frank Martin, Mark Van Wageningen, and Paul Van Wageningen.
- Professionals Over 30/San Francisco:** discussion/social, Pride Center, 890 Hayes St. at Fillmore, S.F., 8 PM. The topic will be Friendships: What They Are and How They Are Developed. Newcomers welcome. For more information call Stan at 826-4725, evenings.
- Womancare:** Sexual Enhancement and Initiation for Women, Lyon-Martin Clinic conference room, 2480 Mission St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free. Jill Bender, MHS, sex counselor and educator, will present information on how women can increase their sexual awareness and pleasure, either as a single or as part of a couple. Lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, and celibate women are invited. Call 641-0220 for reservations.
- Gay Comedy Open Mike:** with co-emcees Tom Ammiano and Kelly Kittell, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$2. Performer sign-up 7:30 PM.
- Media Meeting:** National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights, 2301 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Volunteers needed.
- Marianne Price and the Millionaires:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.

TUESDAY 19

- 1984 Taxidrivers Ball:** Trocadero Transfer, 520 4th St., S.F., 9 PM to 4 AM, cover. With singer Linda Clifford. For more information call Keith Baskin at 824-0640 or Lorri Schiller at 387-2494.
- Did You Come or Fake It?** benefit stage performance by Mothertongue Reader's Theater, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 8 PM, cover. Sister Boom Boom welcomes everyone to the Bi-Po event.
- A Family of Friends:** portraits of a Lesbian friendship group, 1921 to 1973, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. Lecture with slides by Frances Doughty. Part of the Gay and Lesbian Pioneer History series.
- Mame's Medley:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$4. With Gail Simpson and James Meade.
- Lisa Pawlak:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

WEDNESDAY 20

- Sex: Safe and Exciting:** seminar, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1666 Bush St. at Gough, S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free. Featuring members of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.
- National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights:** general membership meeting, 2301 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM.
- Vocal Minority:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. The entertainment specialists of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus perform a special Gay Pride Week concert of jazz, pop, and choral stylings. With Alternative Measures, women's barbershop quartet.
- Women's Comedy Night:** Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$4.
- Bad Drama:** stage performance, (see Thursday listing for details).
- Lady Blanca:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.



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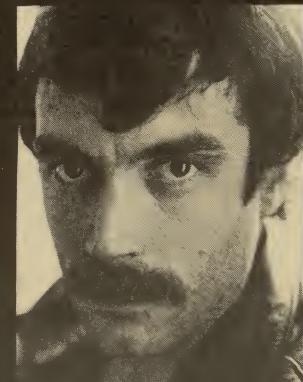
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*Rodeo tickets only (include Barn Dance): 3 days \$30.00; 4 days \$35.00

BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FILM

S.F. International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival

A Day-by-Day Look at the International Film Fest

Films about violent Gay oppression in Cuba and more subtle Gay oppression in Israel are two highlights of the Eighth San Francisco International Film Festival, which opens Monday. The seven-day run at the Castro and Roxie includes 22 feature-length films, including the locally shot *Recent Sorrows*. The schedule is rounded out with shorts and a video festival.

Bay Area Reporter film critics Steve Warren and Morgan Ellis were in the screening rooms last week. They'll give you their picks and pans for this coming week's schedule in adjoining reviews. Here are brief capsules of the films which will screen through Thursday, June 21. In the next issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*, we'll have the schedule for the final three days of the film festival. Then we'll wrap it up with a retrospective on where Lesbian and Gay filmmaking is headed.

MONDAY

IMPROPER CONDUCT (Mauvaise Conduite) (France, 1984)

Castro Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Improper Conduct, a powerful new documentary on the treatment of homosexuals in Cuba, is directed by Academy Award-winning cinematographer Nestor Almendros and Orlando Jimenez Leal, director of *El Super*. Improper Conduct is the first anti-Castro feature film and successfully documents through interviews with political and artistic dissidents the anti-homosexual hysteria of the Castro regime. The directors of Improper Conduct will be present at the premiere as well as the Festival's Opening Night Reception which precedes the film screening at 6:30 p.m. at the Castro Theater.

THE BLACK LIZARD (Japan, 1968)

Castro Theater, 10 p.m.

The story of a mysterious female jewel thief, the Black Lizard. She takes an unusual interest in the "Star of Egypt," a priceless large diamond owned by a jeweler, and kidnaps his beautiful daughter, Sanaye, as the hostage. Akihiro Maruyama, Japan's most famous transvestite actor, stars as the Black Lizard. The cast also includes Yukio Mishima, who adapted the same story for the stage, as one of the Black Lizard's living statues.

TUESDAY

ON GUARD (Australia, 1983)

MAIDENS
(Australia, 1978)

Castro Theater, 6 p.m.

On Guard is the story of a group of Lesbians who conspire to sabotage the research program of Utero, a multi-national corporation engaged in reproductive engineering. Directed by Susan Lambert and produced by Digby Duncan, On Guard comes to the Festival after receiving a Golden Gate Award at the San Francisco International Film Festival last April.

Maidens, a U.S. premiere, is a look at the history of the filmmaker's maternal family using

old photographs, home movies, and excerpts from several historic Australian women's films.

DRIFTING (Israel, 1983)

Castro Theater, 8 p.m.

Drifting, the first Gay feature film from Israel, tells the story of Robi, a young Gay filmmaker, and his attempts to produce a Gay feature film in Israel. Due to both the anti-Gay atmosphere of his country and his own self-destructive personality, the project fails, but not before we have a good look into the lives of him and his friends. The film was the focus of some controversy at last year's World Film Festival in Montreal, where the Israeli government held its sponsorship of the film. One government authority stated that the film did not meet the standards of taste and quality which should be expected of Israeli films as reflective of the modern Jewish state.

THE SPRINTER (West Germany, 1984)

Castro Theater, 10 p.m.

In this West Coast premiere, Wieland Dietrich, the son of

respectable parents, is homosexually inclined. Imploring letters from his much-loved mother, who herself is torn between her love for her son and loyalty to her husband, eventually persuade Wieland to try and become "normal." Sport seems to provide the solution. Dancing lessons have failed to bring him closer to a normal sex life, but when he sees an attractive man in a fashionable running outfit leave a sportswear shop, he knows what he must do. He decides to take up sprinting and joins a sports club. He scores his first success by falling in love with a female shot-putter. Their growing affection inspires them both to even greater performances in their sport. But when Wieland finally plucks up enough courage to propose to the girl, his trainer, for reasons of "the ethics of the sport" strictly forbids him to have anything to do with women during his training. This is no time for jokes and "no cigarettes, no

alcohol, no women" is the motto. Of course, Wieland takes it seriously.

WEDNESDAY

TERENCE DAVIES TRILOGY (Great Britain)

Castro Theater, 3:30 p.m.

This trilogy — Children (1976), Madonna and Child (1980), and Death and Transfiguration (1983) — presents the portrait, from childhood to the grave, of Robert Tucker, a lower-middle class Liverpool homosexual, tormented by the conflicts of religion, guilt and frustration over his masochistic homosexuality, childhood nightmares, and compulsive social respectability. In these harsh black and white films, Davies' impressionistic style appears to pay homage to the Japanese master Yasujiro Ozu, with shots that linger over quiet empty rooms.

THE SECOND AWAKENING OF CHRISTA KLAGES (West Germany, 1978)

Castro Theater, 5:30 p.m.

The Second Awakening of Christa Klages is the earliest solo feature of New German Cinema director Margarete von Trotta. The film is the story of Christa (Tina Engel), who funds a day-care center by unorthodox means (bank robbery), flees into an unorthodox relationship and awakes to yet another aspect of feminism.

ANGEL (Greece, 1982)

Castro Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Angel, the first Gay film from Greece, here in its West Coast premiere, has earned critical acclaim and big box-office returns in its native country, where reportedly one-half of the population has seen the film. In the United States, Angel has met with some controversy. At last year's Chicago Film Festival, it was screened to a largely Gay audience, and there were many vocal objections to director George Katakouzinos' realistically grim story of living a Gay life in Athens.

SPARKLE'S TAVERN (U.S.A., 1984)

Castro Theater, 10 p.m.

Starring Marion Eaton and George Kuchar, this latest work from San Francisco's bad boy of film is a fairytale about a mother's repressed sexuality and the impact of its discovery on her and her children.

THURSDAY

VIKTOR UND VIKTORIA (Germany, 1933)

Castro Theater, 6 p.m.

Reinhold Schuenzel's Viktor und Viktoria provided the basis for two later films — Victor Saville's 1935 First A Girl and Blake Edwards' recent Victor/Victoria — but the original was itself one of the biggest commercial successes ever made.

(Continued on next page)



Angel kisses his sailor in a scene from *Angel*.



Three transvestites look over a john in *Dressed in Blue*.

Love Under the Rainbow

by Morgan Ellis

This year's International Gay Film Festival has gathered some intriguing visions of what Gays from around the world, and right here in our backyard, are dreaming about and experiencing. Passion, romance, drag, muscles, tits, cocks, cunts, art, soccer, cannibalism, music, love, intolerance, betrayal, family, revolution, and death are the experiences which unite us on this planet.

From the cradle of Western Civilization, two poignant films, *Angel* from Greece and *Dressed in Blue* from Spain, show a European, and more specifically a Mediterranean, sensibility. Both depict the lives and loves of transvestites, who live on the fringes of society as entertainers and prostitutes. Many of their clients are nervous married men compelled by their need to be with those of the same sex. Yet, as the hustlers know well, these clients "hide behind the dresses" of the transvestite/transsexuals as a chiffon security blanket, a transparent psychological camouflage. Based on a random

sampling, these clairvoyant, cross-dressed hustlers see past all social pretexts and guises. They know, or hope, as their sampling might suggest, that "99% of men are Gay."

Dressed in Blue interviews six transvestite artistes, who let the cameras enter naturally and completely into their lives. It is easy to forget *Dressed in Blue* is a documentary. The theatrical nature of the subjects and their defiant histories come across with an edifying dramatic electricity. Director Antonio Rico, and his expert cinematographer Teo Escamilla (Carmen, Cri), have captured candid, sensitive views of these drag queens, whose clientele includes a roster of aristocracy, ranging from "those who shake hands with the King" to the handsomest boy at the bar.

Comprehensive and compelling, *Dressed in Blue* will evoke laughter and tears. It explores every dimension of the transvestites' lives, from watching breast implantations, to visits with their families, to the dumb questions by doctors,



A breakfast scene in San Francisco from *Recent Sorrows*.

priests and government officials. It will be shown with the Spanish short film *Silent Moments*, which has also played the Berlin Festival, but was turned down by the International Festival for Human Rights in Strasbourg because of its favorable depiction

of a relationship between a father and son.

It is no coincidence that *Dressed in Blue* and *Angel* (1982) both open in the middle of the night with the cops busting the Spanish girls on the street

and the Greek boys in a cruising park. Based on a true story, *Angel* is about a boy who leaves his poor family to live with a shady sailor, who urges Angel to become a transvestite and earn money to support them.

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cial hits of the Thirties. (*Variety* commented, "Real fast comedy put over with pace and pleasant lightness such as has become so scarce in similar domestic efforts.") The comedy of sexual confusion concerns an aging female impersonator who hires a young woman to take his place as "Viktoria," only to have the new Viktoria become an international sensation. The film starred Renate Mueller, a fresh, sparkling talent reminiscent of the early Margaret Sullavan, and the elegant Adolf Wohlbrück (soon to emigrate and change his name to Anton Walbrook) as Viktoria's London lover. Composer Franz Doebl, who contributed the score here as well as for Schuenzel's *Amphitryon*, was one of Germany's most popular musicians and worked on many stage and screen operettas.

RECENT SORROWS
(U.S.A., 1984)
Castro Theater, 8 p.m.

Jerry Barrish's *Recent Sorrows* is not a Gay film in the usual sense. But *Recent Sorrows* is a sensitive, thoughtful drama about the fragility of contemporary relationships — the need for love and the fear of loneliness. Set in the Bay Area and featuring a cast of local actors, the film explores the inner lives of two men, one straight and the other Gay, who must face the bitter reality of their deteriorating love affairs.

THE RAINBOW SERPENT
(France, 1983)
Castro Theater, 10 p.m.

In the West Coast premiere of this musical, action, comedy, director Philippe Vallois (*We Were One Man*) presents the story of a death in the private gym of a bodybuilder. The cop in charge of the inquiry has to insinuate himself into the life of the bodybuilder so as to observe him at close quarters and get acquainted with him. He unconsciously uses his affinity with the bodybuilder to free himself of his own weaknesses. Affinity soon turns into friendship which in turn becomes submission. He is carried off on a journey of initiation.

The Terence Davies Experience

If you only see *The Terence Davies Trilogy* you'll be missing the better part of *The Terence Davies Experience* — meeting the filmmaker, who is the antithesis of his film.

There's a t-shirt that sums up the Trilogy: "Life is hard, then you die."

It takes Davies 101 minutes to make that point on the screen, illustrating it with the hard life of Robert Tucker, a Gay man who might be described as a repressed Catholic, if that were not redundant.

Children (completed in 1976) finds Robert in school, where he's brutalized by students and teachers alike. At home his father abuses his mother, who is the perfect role model for a young wimp. At midpoint the pace slows to an excruciatingly British crawl, anticlimaxed by an endless scene of mother and son riding through Liverpool on a bus. They don't move; only the bus moves, showing us Liverpool through its dirty windows. It's the most boring scene since the episode in a bar in *Ron Peck's Nighthawks*. *Children* ends with the funeral of Tucker's father.

Madonna and Child (1980) concentrates on Tucker in middle age, although we're forever flashing backward and forward in time. The emphasis on Catholicism is stronger here, closely interlaced with Gay sexual fantasies. While confessing a

litany of standard sins, his mind dwells on the one he could never tell the priest about. He lives with and cares for his mother, now old and infirm.

Death and Transfiguration (1983) begins with his mother's death and ends with Tucker's. The pace is still less than frantic, so there's not time for much else in 25 minutes. With his memories visualized, Tucker seems to be watching himself at different ages, somewhat like the end of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. There's a surprising bit of comic relief as young Robert faces the wrong way in his first confession. Old Robert is played by Wilfred Brambell (Paul McCartney's "clean" grandfather in *A Hard Day's Night*), who looks so old his death scene is frighteningly real.

A serious film structured around three deaths is not destined to be a barrel of laughs, but *The Terence Davies Trilogy* is a real wrist-slasher that makes Ingmar Bergman look like Jerry Lewis. It's easy for Gay men, especially Catholics, to relate to Robert Tucker on many levels; but Davies violates a basic rule of filming by having his protagonist cry for himself so much we're not about to cry for him.

There are compensating pleasures and treasures along the way, including the opportunity to observe Davies' growth from one episode to the next. Having gotten this project off his chest, he must be given a chance to show what else he can do. He could easily be one of Britain's most important filmmakers by the end of the decade.

★ ★ ★

Seeing *The Terence Davies*



A scene from *The Terence Davies Trilogy*.

Trilogy hardly prepares one for meeting its creator, who turns out to be a born again comic. Davies is lively, funny and charming, among other things his film is not; and he not only admits to the shortcomings of the Trilogy, but pulls the rug out from under the school of criticism most likely to praise it.

Overall he expresses pride in his work; but on a personal level he indicates a low opinion of himself, expressed both seriously and in jest.

"There are three things I've wanted all my life — to be very bad, to be macho, and to be called 'Rick,'" he says.

Discussing why he isn't "on the Gay scene" back in England, he relates his perceived faults as if he were back in the confessional: "I'm not good-looking; I don't dance; I'm not

very good in bed . . . It seems everybody thinks with their pricks (in the bars). If you're not beautiful you may as well stay at home and scrape out the oven."

(Continued on next page)

Love Under the Rainbow

(Continued from previous page)

Angel pinpoints the tragedy of living in the suffocating shadows of emotional and social oppression. With essences of Genet, using a story base similar to Chereau's *L'Homme Blessé*, and with qualities of Fassbinder's *Querelle*, *Angel* is the most natural, well-developed of this by now familiar storyline of passion and betrayal. *Angel* comes to experience the most violent and cruel forms of degradation from family, lover and neighbors.

With a long history of French and Greek film and television, Angle is director Katakouzinos' first full length feature. An excellent cast makes every scene of *Angel* breathe with life. Their performances infuse the screen with an unflinching vision of the modern Greek Gay experience. A major hit in Greece, more than 25% of its population is estimated to have seen it.

Unrelenting is the rain of misery in *Angel's* life. Even before the tragic final scenes, *Angel* finds himself dragged from a client's smashed car and beaten by vigilantes. He is taken to the police, who let the vigilantes go. The police register *Angel* and notify the army and his family. *Angel* is expelled from the army. His drunkard father, despondent with shame, commits a gory suicide.

This is not light stuff.

"As far as I'm concerned, making this film was a moral and militant choice, in the face of intolerance and common 'everyday fascism,'" the director writes. "Choosing the theme of homosexuality as the vehicle of my ideas and feelings was a challenge; it added a human dimension to what has been called 'the acknowledged difference.' *Angel* is not rooted in Christian mythology, but Greek mythology. The Greek spirit brought forth tragic heroes, whereas Christian spirit produced tortured creatures. Angle is not a Christian Orthodox. He stands for saintliness beyond dogma, beyond good and evil. Beyond morality."

★ ★ ★

Recent Sorrows is the latest

work by Jerry Barrish, a native San Franciscan, and, I assume, heterosexual. Set in contemporary San Francisco, *Recent Sorrows* is Barrish's attempt to show the similarity of emotional plights faced by straights and Gays.

Using a skillfully-crafted dramatic ploy, *Recent Sorrows* opens when a despondent Gay man overhears a straight man tell his buddy about finding his girlfriend in bed with a younger man. The Gay man follows the guy home. Both slightly drunk, the Gay man gets into the other's apartment by telling him he can bring back his girlfriend. Once inside, the Gay man tells the straight man he is the devil, and if the man will sign away his soul, he can reunite the two. When card tricks fail to convince the man of the other's santic nature, the Gay man gives him a gun and tells him to shoot. In the struggle, the Gay man is killed. With a silent defendant, the police must attempt to find out what happened. Barrish neatly sets up the circumstances for his drama, and dutifully explains the motivations of his quartet of lovers. One interesting aspect of *Recent Sorrows* is the allusion to easily identifiable political events. The dialogue includes suggestions that the Mayor, as a shrewd precaution, appointed a weak Gay supervisor named Brighton, only to find he and the Gay community still challenge her power.

Simply put, maybe too simply put, Barrish's views about Gays in San Francisco are nevertheless recognizable and current. There is a certain self-consciousness about Barrish's actors. The cops muse about the plus and minus about the Gays in the city, landing on the side in favor of the urban renewal brought by its presence. By virtue of its slice-of-life value of San Francisco Gays and straights, the inclusion of *Recent Sorrows* at the Festival is important. After the festival it will move to the Red Victorian on Haight Street for a week.

With cops in our bathhouses, nightly raids on our parks, *Angel* or *Dressed in Blue*, and the whole roster of films at the Festival, remind us how our pursuit of self-fulfillment is the root for the forces of oppression.

M. Ellis

BAY AREA REPORTER OPEN FORUM

LETTERS

Bluefish

★ My lover and I went to see *LAST SUMMER AT BLUEFISH COVE*. Most of the audience were women. Why? I don't know. Just a fact. I really didn't care because I felt comfortable, but did take notice.

This play is wonderful. It's funny, warm, bitchy, loving and silly. It was about love, friendship, death and life. Very human. It just so happened the characters were Lesbians — could have been anybody.

For a moment or so, in this day of fear, paranoia and disparity (so we think), the human spirit swept over and through the audience. I didn't want to leave the room. I grasped my lover's hand with urgency and tenderness. Corny? Maybe. But that's what happened and that's how I felt.

J. C. Cox
San Francisco

Terence Davies

(Continued from previous page)

America is even worse, he says. All the men are so beautiful he feels totally intimidated. At least in England no one is sexy. "It's very difficult to be sexy in a damp climate when you're moist all the time . . . Along with the Dutch we (English) are the most boring people in the world," he says.

Davies admits to a certain amount of autobiography in his Trilogy, but much of it is the story of how his life *might* have turned out.

"I was one of those children who believed everything I was told," he says. Then when he was 22, "I suddenly stopped and said 'It doesn't mean anything anymore,' and gave it up . . .

"The films are my catharsis, my artistic enema . . . I had to put it on film and say to my family, 'That's the way I am.' The youngest of ten children, he warned his mother before showing her the Trilogy, "You'll be shocked. There are naughty bits, naughty words . . . When it was over she said, 'I was shocked, but I was very proud of you.'"

He went to film school and learned "how much you don't need to know." His favorite teacher was Alexander Mackendrick, who directed such films as *The Man in the White Suit*, *The Ladykillers*, and *The Sweet Smell of Success*. "Controlled instinct" was the main thing Mackendrick taught him. When Davies showed him the first cut of *Madonna and Child*, someone mentioned to Mackendrick that it was a Gay film. The teacher drily replied, "Not at the moment, it isn't."

School taught Davies disdain for film snobs with their theories, trends, and analyses.

"The current fashion is minimalism — whatever that is," he reports. "The year before it was semiology."

While Davies is justifiably proud of the shot that ends *Children* — mother and son through the window of the father's hearse — he doesn't try to defend his agonizing bus tour of Liverpool.

"I call it my 'angora sweater shot,'" he jokes, "because you can knit one while you watch it. I didn't know anything about screen time when I did it, and didn't know how long two minutes and 20 seconds can seem . . . I still can't watch it."

Showing the Trilogy at festivals has earned Davies a lot of respect, but still hasn't gotten him what he wants most — a job directing a feature film.

"I want to direct someone else's script now," he says. "I want to make someone laugh — enough of guilt-ridden angst!" The BBC rejected him rudely on several occasions, telling him once, "Not only can't you direct anyone else's script, you can't direct at all!" . . . They think they're the guardians of our culture," he sneers.

The Terence Davies Trilogy opens its first commercial run in London in September. It's not likely to be a huge success, but it will generate talk that could generate work for Davies. And the film snobs will have a field day writing analytical critiques — Davies may even inspire next year's trend! ■

(Wed., June 20, 3:30 p.m., Castro) S. Warren

*The Rainbow Serpent**Din Din or Story of G*

Cannibalism and bodybuilding, primitive ritual, cabaret and murder — that's a lot to pack into 90 minutes and still leave room for musical numbers. Philippe Vallois (*We Were One Man*) has done it in *The Rainbow Serpent*, creating one of the Gayest films ever made with no specifically Gay content.

The plot device, familiar from *Cruising* and *Partners*, has Guy (Serge Avedikian), a young cop, going undercover in an alien milieu to solve a murder. He apprentices himself to a bodybuilder named Loukas, whose partner has mysteriously dis-appeared.

Guy is a 97-pound weakling who gets a lot of sand kicked in his face by Loukas, who teaches him submission in lessons that have more to do with giving in than pumping up. Guy has a wife and Loukas is interested in a (female) new wave singer, but Vallois' depiction of their relationship will fool no one; nor is it intended to.

While Guy is becoming immersed in a new lifestyle, so is his boss, who hangs around in drag to be available for rescues he never performs.

In case anyone could take the bizarre happenings seriously, they're frequently punk-tuated by musical numbers, and a running anthropological lecture which is as applicable to the story as you want it to be.

Vallois' firm directorial hand has made *The Rainbow Serpent* exactly what he set out to make. It's unique and sure to attract a cult, if the right people discover it. ■

(Thurs., June 21, 10 p.m., Castro) S. Warren

*Drifting**Faygelehs*

Oh, God! Another semi-autobiographical film about a filmmaker making a semi-autobiographical film about . . . And this real-to-reel *auteur* is both Jewish and Gay — this could be the Angst Olympics!

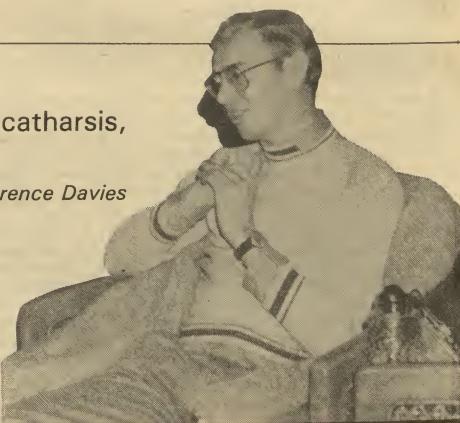
Those were my fears going into *Drifting*, and most of them proved groundless. Director and co-director Amos Gutman has been refreshingly objective about himself and his ego, as represented by Robi (Jonathan Sagall).

"Don't ask!" appears to be the operative philosophy for Gay Israeli. Robi lives with his grandmother — "We don't talk about it." His lover, Ilan (Ami Traub), has a wife — "I need some kind of framework . . . She doesn't ask questions." When Robi makes Gay short films and tries to raise money for a feature about "that subject," he forces people to confront The Issue and is rejected, as Gutman has been in Israel.

Robi is young but already jaded. He's nice, but so preoccupied with himself and his film that he's often unintentionally cruel. Going off to cruise the park (a scene which carries a flood of nostalgia for the pre-AIDS days), he says he hopes he'll find someone for his film, someone "innocent . . . like I used to be." When he finds just such a person, Ezri (Ben Levine), Robi does everything he can to prevent a serious affair from developing.

"The films are my catharsis, my artistic enema."

— Terence Davies



True to its title, *Drifting* seems much longer than it is. The last third, including Ezri's final humiliation and the consummation of Robi's crush on the Arab next door, gets more

weird than it needs to. But overall, the film successfully transcends its milieu to represent the universal Gay experience (Translation: You don't have to be Jewish . . .). Gutman has

followed the recipe for a boring, self-indulgent ego trip, but he's created something altogether different. ■

(Tues., June 19, 8 p.m., Castro) S. Warren

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TALES OF TESSI TURA

Tenor Tantrums

GEORGE HEYMONT

Opera queens love *Aida* for reasons which go far beyond the opera's basic exotic appeal. Verdi's score is chock full of glorious music, stunning star turns and magnificent ensembles. A good production offers the audience stupendous visual rewards. And there are always some humpy numbers in high Egyptian drag trotting their buns across the stage during the Triumphal Scene. Feathers and gold for days!

But there comes a point when the thrill of begging for deliverance wears thin. It is a tense moment (known to critics and slaves alike) when no amount of dramatic suspense or macho hype counts for shit unless the people being hailed as acknowledged masters of their craft can deliver the goods. Then it's time to put up or shut up, which is precisely why one heard such a resounding thud echoing through the War Memorial Opera House on the opening night of this year's *Aida* production. The bigger they are, the harder they fall.

TUT, TUT, TUT

With so much wealth resting in the land of the pharaohs, one would think the richness of Verdi's score could have been realized. Alas, the San Francisco Opera, which consistently fumbles Verdi works, seems almost cursed in this department. Fresh from a stunning success with Wagner's *Siegfried*, conductor Edo de Waart seemed lost in the depths of Verdi's music. The sounds coming from de Waart's musicians were clean, Germanic — but hardly Italian. Indeed, the Dutch conductor offered a symphonic reading of the score which was nearly bereft of passion.

I doubt he could have been inspired by what he saw onstage, where Bruce Donnell's insipid, provincial direction and amateurish blocking undermined a great deal of the physical production. Tenor Franco Bonisoli was acting most unprofessionally; pouting onstage like a five-year-old child sulking in his

sandbox. Bonisoli (who recently underwent gallbladder surgery) was not sounding like his usual stentorian self and, perhaps to compensate, fell back on indifferent singing and poor sportsmanship.

His Radames was less a fearless warrior than an applause-hungry caricature of a pig tenor with a broomstick up his ass. His bizarre behavior onstage, which ranged from benign upstaging to brazen screaming after optional high notes, was the kind of operatic crap one expects from a menopausal prima donna. The man really needs to clean up his act.

In lesser roles, Kevin Langan's Ramfis and Dolora Zajic's Priestess were most solidly sung. Daniel Harper's Messenger showed surprising commitment. Juan Pons' Amneris and James Patterson's King were passable at best. Robert Gladstein's choreography ranged between maudlin and embarrassing.

CATAcomb CAPERS

Aida is basically an extended bitch fight between its two female leads. Surprisingly, Ruza Baldani's Amneris lacked conviction, bite, and charisma — an odd situation for such a strong character. Nor was her singing anything which would blow your socks off.

Leontyne Price's Aida proved to be mystifyingly outrageous. It's no secret that the soprano's dramatic skills have never been her strongest point (although she is looking more majestic than ever). Back in 1981, when Miss Price stepped into this production to take over for an ailing colleague, her performance was electrifying. On that historic night she was forced to improvise, to wing it. As a result, the diva did not fall back on her six stock operatic gestures. Instead, she acted the pants off the role.

This year, however, when given more rehearsal time, an inept stage director, and a tenor who was trying to upstage her, Miss Price reacted by opening up her gun ports to protect what has long been her operatic turf. Some of her work was impressive; other moments left one sorry to see a great artist so disgraced by the situation. For much of her first three scenes Leontyne hooted and scooped her way through the score (her habit of physically carving a circle in the air with her head while approaching a note has become more distressing in recent years). The tug-of-war between Price, Bonisoli, and de Waart found the tenor fighting the conductor through every bar of music. Like a fool, Bonisoli kept trying to get his own way, only to be trumped by Price's sublime demonstrations which said "Here's how it's done — sonny boy."

Trapped in a production which was miscast, misdirected,



"What are we going to do about that lunatic tenor?" Aida and her father plot their strategy in Verdi's opera.

and poorly conducted, Leontyne the Reliable slowly took out her treasured pieces of gold and carefully, methodically, unveiled them for the public to see. Rising above such dismal circumstances, she proved herself to be an artist who knows her assets, recognizes her worth and is, above all else, a trouper. It should be stressed that when the chips were down, Miss Price delivered one of the most soul-felt and ethereal renditions of "O patria mia" I have ever heard escape her vocal cords. Those few moments of genuine glory made up for the sorry mess surrounding her throughout the rest of the evening.

POP MUSIC

Sharkey's Bait

PETER KEANE

Laurie Anderson, who played the Berkeley Community Theatre June 5 and 6, is undeniably an original.

There may be other talented performance artists/musicians working in the less populist loft and gallery circuit, but in the conventional rock milieu she is currently the only one who does what she does. Her high art credentials are impeccable — she has been at times a sculptor, an art history teacher, an art critic for publications such as *Art News*, *Art in America*, and *Art Forum*, an installation artist, and a performance artist. One of her installations, *Handphone*

(Continued on next page)



Laurie Anderson

Back In Grace



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STAGE

La Cage aux Folles

American Musical Comedy — The Old-Fashioned Way

by Michael Lasky

Put politics aside. Forget about message. Go, see *La Cage aux Folles* for what it was designed to be — a big, splashy, flashy, razzle-dazzle, glamorous Broadway musical — the kind they used to do.

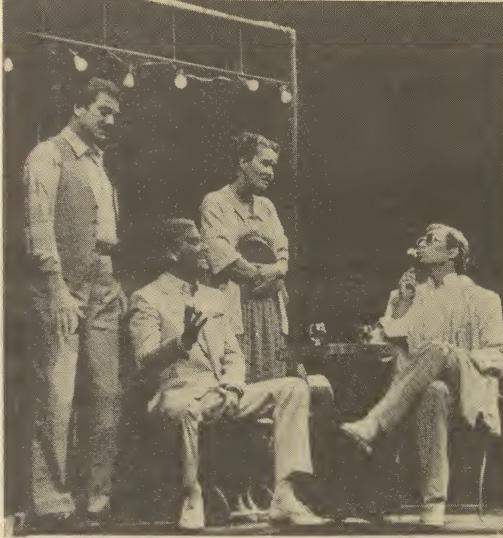
This is Broadway musical comedy in the pre-Hair traditional sense.

The Jerry Herman music is tuneful, with enough hooks to keep you humming as you leave the theater. Harvey Fierstein's book, based on the play of the same name by Jean Poiret and the film by Francis Veber, is not as overflowing with hysterical farce — as only the French can do it — but maintains the fey warmth of the Gay marriage of 20 years that is the center of the story.

While Keith Michell and Walter Charles, as Georges and Albin, are the billed stars of the show, many of the scenes are stolen by the opulent, outrageous, rainbow-hued costumes of Theoni V. Aldredge. I hope

Designer David Mitchell puts us right into the Riviera of St. Tropez as lavish scenes breeze in on whisper jet conveyer belts, lending an almost cinematic flow to the action.

The action? Most of that is left to the musical numbers. Jerry Herman's music, ironically, sustains the story as well as restraining it. The first act is nearly 90 minutes long, virtually the length of the entire film. True, much of that is taken up with production numbers inside the cabaret featuring the drag queens known as Les Cagelles (ten men and two women). While they provide magnificent, Las Vegas-style entertainment,



Love Song. Keith Mitchell (seated, l.) sings to Walter Charles (seated, r.) at an outdoor cafe as the two inkeepers watch.

there is a nudist colony for birds because the sheer abundance of feathers in the show suggests that there are a lot of naked flyers out there. As if the feathers aren't an eyeful, the producers of *La Cage* must have cornered the market on sequins as well.

And then there are the sets that pour in from the sides, from the heavens, from everywhere.

the drag queens remove attention from the plot.

Nightclub owner Georges (Keith Michell) has been married to Albin (Walter Charles) for 20 years. Albin is ZaZa, the temperamental star of the shows at the club (*La Cage aux Folles*). When Georges' son, by a brief heterosexual experiment 24 years before, comes home to announce his marriage to the

missing. We as viewers are so conditioned to look beneath the surface and search — usually in vain — for meaning, that when confronted with an aural ready-made, we're baffled. What you see is what you get.

If this sounds potentially dull, it's not. Anderson's laconic, deadpan delivery (much like Burroughs'), throws her dry humor — and there is much of it — into high relief. "Sharkey's Day," "Langue D'Amour," and her encore, "Walk the Dog," were greatly enhanced by her ironic, throwaway recitations.

However — here come the cavils. Most rock performers, by the very nature of their hyperbolic craft, feel compelled to outdo themselves every time out. It has to be bigger, better, harder, faster, more dazzling. Both critics and listeners have been set up by Anderson's reputation and previous work to expect

daughter of an ultra conservative party leader, Georges is forced, for his son's sake, to get Albin out of the house. Albin is too flamboyantly queenie, something Mr. Conservative would frown upon.

Many Gays have complained that the homosexual elements of the original story have been toned down in this musical version. Perhaps. Yet, in its own way, it is more upfront than the French version.

There is a magnificent chemistry between Michell and Charles, a natural rapport that suggests they really have been lovers for 20 years. Their grace, eloquence, and warmth in their scenes together make you forget they happen to be two men. They are a married couple, and everyone in St. Tropez accepts them for that. It's no big deal.

The part of the maid, Jacob (Darrell Carey), was always designed as a Gay comic foil and remains that way, albeit in a more abridged version.

Because this is a musical, the Gay issue might seem more in the background but is, nevertheless, prevalent throughout. Harvey Fierstein — author of *Torch Song Trilogy* — was sure, however, to get in a few zingers about how society sees Gay people.

"In the minds of the masses, a lush is more presentable than a fruit," Georges tells Albin when he wants him to try to butch it up.

Albin replies, "I was raised a Christian — humiliation is my lot." Charles plays his gender-bender role with subtle dignity and seems to have taken lessons from Charles — Pierce, that is. Keith Michell seems equally at ease playing husband to Charles, and Master of Ceremonies to the audience. With Jerry Herman's lilting score, both are able to sell the songs they sing. Perhaps the only handicap of the show is Joseph Breen as son Jean-Michel, who seems totally stiff in his role of the straight son of faggot parents.

Whether or not the song "I Am What I Am" is to be a Gay national anthem, as some New York critics have suggested, *La Cage aux Folles* is certainly no precedent-setting Gay show. The play and film that preceded did that. Instead, this is, first and foremost, American musical comedy the way we haven't seen it in years. The message might not be loud enough for some, but that's not what this genre is meant to produce. Its vision is entertainment, and it delivers showmanship at its most professional.

La Cage aux Folles
Golden Gate Theatre
Through August 5; 775-8800

(Continued from previous page)

Jackson band; Dollette and Brenda, those wild girls from Talking Heads; David van Tieghem, on percussion and drums, himself a well-respected artist in New York; and, on white courtesy telephone, that stately old literary homo William Burroughs. This aggregation set up compelling and complex, but never inaccessible, musical riffs that could have gone on for hours without boring anyone.

Anderson herself is primarily a storyteller, not a singer. She's of the "it-is-what-it-is" school of dada presentation, using basic, almost simplistic words and images to underscore themes of the everyday. The fact that most of her vignettes don't go anywhere or offer any great metaphorical insights is, I think, the fundamental point most people are

missing. We as viewers are so conditioned to look beneath the surface and search — usually in vain — for meaning, that when confronted with an aural ready-made, we're baffled. What you see is what you get.

Anderson should be praised for blazing new trails for the rock crowd. Pioneers are often misunderstood and given a lot of flak; in her case, the current gripe seems to be a lack of unifying substance to her shows. She's creating a new vocabulary, though, and it will only be a matter of time before others will take her lead and broaden and increase the genre. She's an influential artist whose stature will only increase with the passing of time.

P. Keane

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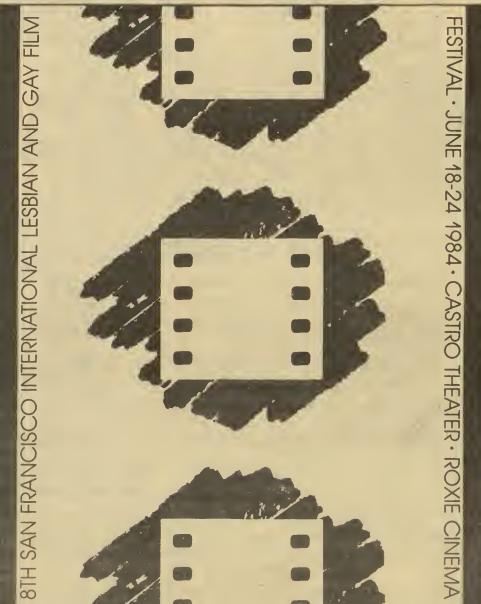
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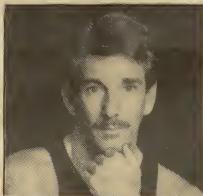
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FROM FIFTH POSITION

Bodybuilding vs. Dance

KEITH WHITE

Reflex is Bob Stuart Murphy's latest presentation of dance, music, and media. Produced by H. Farrington Cook and directed by Hael Kobayashi, it is no longer quite the intimate, casual recital Murphy has given in the past. He began giving informal solo performances in his own loft in late 1981 and has danced in both Rites of Spring, though he is probably still better known as a familiar Castro or South-of-Market face than as a serious artist. Yet he has proven to be very tenacious, as anyone who wants to produce a dance concert must be, and in this program he pushes himself further artistically than he's ever hinted at before.

The Loft at Eighth and Folsom is next door to the one where I originally saw Murphy perform. A stunning space, its velvety black interior made me think of a supper club in the '40s: graduated platforms behind a slightly elevated circular stage, an ebony grand piano on one side beneath three staggered projection screens. Magnificent flower arrangements and superb lighting complete the scene. The tiered platform seating accommodates 80 to 100 people.

There were a few technical delays on the opening night, but I'm sure these minor problems have been solved. The space-media-lighting design is by John Calhoun, who has assisted Murphy in past years (and also appears as an instrumentalist on this occasion). Murphy used eight other dancers for the evening along with a three-man production crew.

Murphy is actually the furthest underground of all the Gay dancer/choreographers in San Francisco. His work is performed in total earnest to serious musical scores, but he still gives a heavy show of beefcake. The audience is almost totally Gay, and as a bodybuilder, Murphy is very involved in the Gay male body esthetic; that is his hallmark and his come-on. However, as a dancer he seeks not only to express his deeper concerns, but in some measure to absolve the body of its sexual symbolism, vindicate its muscles, and lift the Gay esthetic to a higher plane than street cruising. Obviously, this is a treacherous path to tread.

The opening duet with Greg Martin, Camelot (to the orchestrated song), leans toward the lyrical, a style I've never seen Murphy attempt on his own. On a program consciously aimed at variety, this opening piece was the least comfortable.

Following a presentation of slides cued to music — the first of two during the evening — Murphy's first solo dance evoked a more familiar image: a leather strip tease, but strangely unerotic. In and of themselves, leather and muscles have both been around long enough to have lost their theatrical power for me; we can get more than our fill at any gym in town, and/or selected watering holes. Yet these "cultural" references are lingering images in a transitional period, and Murphy wants to speak directly to a Gay audience.

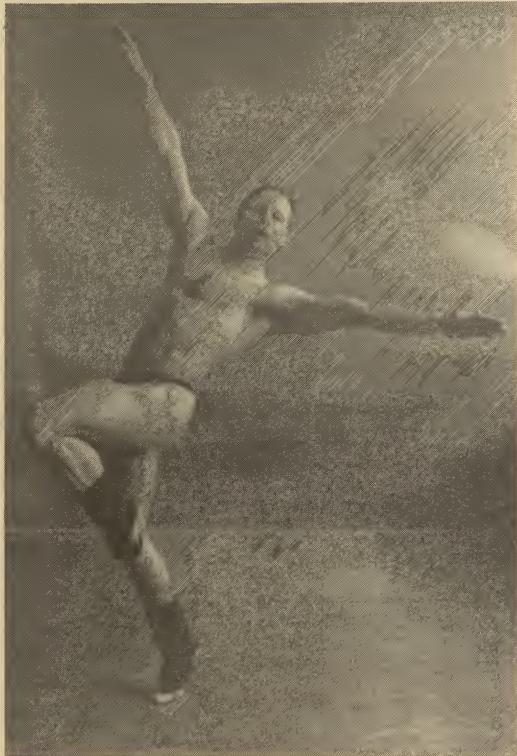
Accompanied by John Calhoun on piano, Tom Gschwind played the "Romance" movement from Bolling's "Suite for Violin and Jazz Piano," one of those "light classical" pieces

that belongs on Muzak, giving Murphy a moment to change. (He appeared in every dance except the muscle pose in the second half.) Calhoun and Gschwind then accompanied Murphy's new solo, a yearning, introspective dance which began and ended in a seated position on the floor. Set to the gorgeous, melodramatic *Andante Doloso* from Kreisler's "Concerto in C Major" for Violin and Piano, the dance was as subtle and emotionally powerful an expression as Murphy has ever made. The audience went wild.

Like most people, Murphy obviously "feels" his way through the choreographic process. Dancing is, after all, a physical activity, and a common

ing the coaching? Jeffrey Dahle and Greg Martin joined Murphy for Fanfare and Cosmos, both with music by Vangelis, and both of which Murphy has previously performed as solos. Martin is a natural mover and pursued the steps aggressively. Dahle is capable, inexperienced, and charmingly shy in front of the audience. I hope these dancers continue to work with Murphy and that he eventually makes new dances for them. Both these works simply needed a longer rehearsal period conducted by an uninvolved coach.

A real surprise of the evening was Murphy's Hollywood duet with Terry Mahaffey of the San Francisco Tap Troupe. A glitzy "Dance Fever" take-off, it's as far from anything Murphy has ever appeared in as Camelot was, and I can hardly believe he choreographed it. But it's upbeat and it works. Murphy has so much fun working his hips and shoulders that one wonders why he's waited so long to do it. Mahaffey is tall and handsome, with a chest and stomach smooth enough to have been salon waxed. He loves being on



Bob Stuart Murphy in "Hollywood" part of *Reflex*.

problem in choreographing for oneself is that what feels good may not look good. There is a point in the *Andante* solo when the dancing leaves the floor and breaks into larger, more athletic movement, when the subtlety of the initial moments is almost lost. This is also a problem in Rod, a minimalist solo (if there ever was one) traditional Japanese music played by flutist Jean Pierre Rampal. The gradual, almost motionless development of the dance — delicately balanced using a long metal rod as a prop — seems almost too much even for Murphy. He occasionally looked constricted by the very simplicity of his own idea, as though a struggle was taking place between his concept and the will of his body to flex and feel its own strength.

For Murphy, performing may not be so much a process of displaying his muscles as a means of feeling their strength. When others perform his movement, they often appear to be wearing someone else's garment. This is the problem of dancing and directing: who's doing

stage, the way people do who are certain they look good, and he came back in the finale and gave us a few riffs of tap dancing as the rest of the cast (including Andrew Alder and Carl Lerer) did an Olympic Games comedy take-off.

The appearance of three bodybuilders who posed to music, just before the finale, emphasized the difference between dancing and bodybuilding, and completed the continuum Bob Murphy has set up in his work. For bodybuilders, the physical form is the end product; displaying it is the natural final statement. Dancing is concerned with its own architecture of steps and music, and most often, with implied dramatic content as well. Concern about the body interferes with dancing, even when it is a striptease. It's all a question of intention. Murphy remains balanced between these two impulses, but his experimentation has never been braver.

Reflex will be repeated June 14, 15, and 16 at 8:30 p.m. The Loft, 301 Eighth St. at Folsom. Phone 626-6255 for reservations.

BAY AREA REPORTER

SPORTS & FITNESS

FITNESS EIGHTIES

Feeling Good — Looking Good

PAUL TREFZGER

The letter said: "Do my aerobics instructor in your column. He's cute and he's Gay. I have a crush on him, although he doesn't know it . . . yet." The instructor is Jamie Mertz and he still hasn't been approached by his "secret love." But he was approached by me for Fitness Eighties. He was anxious to talk about his class, fitness, life, you name it.

"Last October I started 'Bodyrhythms' at 325 Sanchez. I get about 25 to 30 people per class." The classes are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

It started when he was a member at Jane Fonda's local studio. He was asked to become an instructor. He said that as a result of the lawsuit of a tenant in the building, they "had to eliminate any part of our routine where our feet would leave the floor" and that virtually eliminated aerobics, at least for Jamie. "It used to be the best in the city. No one could compare. Then these good instructors left and spread out in different directions. There was Dennis, Greg, Patty, and Shauna. I moved over to Telegraph Hill Club

cause of the macho thing. Wait a minute. I wrestled in high school and the beginning of college. My major was Modern Dance Choreography at Ohio University in Athens. I got a BFA in Dance. Then I went to Cincinnati where I choreographed a piece for the Contemporary Dance Theatre. Do you want to know when I knew it was time to leave the Midwest? I was waiting tables to save up money to eventually move. There, everybody listens to baseball on the radio . . . even the women. This guy said to me,



Jamie Mertz (Photo: Rink)

where I stayed for about a half year. Then I decided to start my own class. For a while I had it in the lower level of the Muscle System. Then when it got too big I moved it to Sanchez School auditorium. I'm at a point now where I'm trying to decide whether or not to expand," Jamie said.

Mertz was born December 7, 1954, in Queens, New York. He related an incident from the fifth grade. "My teacher started out by saying to the class, 'Today is December seventh.' I thought she was going to tell the whole class that it was my birthday. She went on, 'A day that will live in infamy.' I was crushed. How was I supposed to know about Pearl Harbor?"

Well, he survived the surprise attack on his birthday and went on to high school and college. Jamie said, "I always ran. I wasn't into regular sports be-

'Who do you think's gonna win the pennant?' I said, 'Excuse me. I don't know who's playing.' That's when you know it's time to leave.

"But you know, one thing I kind of miss. There were some closer relationships there. They weren't just for sex and superficial things. It was nice to be able to say 'Hello' and not have it be considered a proposition." On that subject, Jamie said he currently has no lover or roommate. "Just friends . . . people to relate with. No, I'm not committed to one person . . . yet. I found, out here, that despite how great it is to be yourself, some people have a hard time dealing with sexual freedom. The bottom line is that we all want to be loved, have friends, and be cared about but . . . Tell me. Have you ever heard anyone say that they go to the gym because they love to work out?



Jamie Mertz gets aerobic. (Photo: Rink)

People should realize that what really counts is the person with the big heart, not the big pecs."

Jamie works out three times a week at the Muscle System, for two and a half hours per time. "I start with warm-up exercises consisting of side-bends, knee-lifts, abdominal lifts, flex-and-extensions, and various exercises with the wooden rod over the shoulders. Actually, sometimes

I do these at the end of a workout. I highly recommend any cardiovascular exercise. I may run from the gym to and from, say, the United Nations Plaza. A workout's better after some cardiovascular exercise."

Then, in the gym, "I never do legs. I get that with aerobics. I start with pecs — (3 sets, 10 reps) horizontal, vertical, incline, and decline. I do 90 for the

chest. I don't know what the current piece of equipment is called, but it used to be called the Paramount 2000. It's a 'pulling machine.' I do flies for the lats (3 sets, 15 reps). I do a behind the neck (pull down) for shoulders and upper back (3 sets, 10 reps). After that, arms; three different exercises for biceps, and three different ones

(Continued on next page)

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G.S.L. UPDATE

TOM VINDEED

Rookies Roll Over Opposition!

So who cares if it wasn't on the playing field! The Rookies, doing a parody on "There is Nothing Like a Dame," into "There is Nothing Like a Drag," brought the house down at the Third and most artistic Gay Softball League Amateur Night Contest. The DeLuxe made up for last year's disappointment by winning Second Place, and Third spot went to the Cafe Sn. Marcos. Not placing, but very entertaining, were the Ambush and the Village.

It took three years, but finally everyone was happy with the judges decision. Special thanks to Pat Grace (Patrick for Hair), Tim Kane (BPF Travel), Russ Glenn (White Swallow), Bob Lynch (Editor, California Voice), and Alyson Moed, (Head Nurse, Ward 5B). On behalf of the patients at Ward 5B, Alyson accepted a check for \$1,100, from GSL Commissioner Bob Docca.

For those of you in the GSL who had no excuse for not being there, too bad, we had a good time without you!

On to softball.

The Rawhide got back in the hunt for one of the six play-off spots with a 9-3 win over a pesky Trax squad. Cliff Wilson paced

the Ambush to #1 as the Bushwackers scored a 14-3 win over Googie's. As he told me, Mark Brown pitched the Kokpit to an easy 14-0 win over the Phone Booth. Chaps came up with a run in the top half of the 8th inning edging Cafe Sn. Marcos, 4-3. The Vagabond outscored the Rookies.

In the featured game of the day the Pendulum downed Moby Dick, 7-6 on two bloop hits, as told to me by Pirate coach Art Jackson. The Pendulum just about clinched Second Place with their big win. DeLuxe, Pilsner Inn and the Village all had a wonderful day off.

Don't forget this Saturday when the Vagabond holds its 5000 tourney at 1 p.m. and the Ambush plays (in drag) against the Royal Family at 8 p.m. at Lang Field.

This week's games are at Jackson Field, 17th & Arkansas:

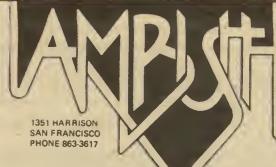
10:00 a.m. - Googie's/Trax

11:45 a.m. - Phone Booth /Ambush and Kokpit/Cafe Sn. Marcos.

1:30 p.m. - Chaps/Vagabond and Moby Dick/Rookies.

3:15 p.m. - DeLuxe/Pendulum and Pilsner Inn/Village. ■

Shop for a good Gay time
in every issue of the
Bay Area Reporter



The Ambush Softball Team
presents
**1st ANNUAL AMBUSH
SOFTBALL DRAG GAME**

The Royal Family
vs.
Ambush-Wackers Softball Team

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1984
8 p.m.
LANG FIELD

Turk at Gough

VCR Raffle Drawing - 4th Inning

The game is being played to raise money for the Ambush Softball Team and the patients in Ward 5B. A donation of \$5.00 or less, or more, is suggested and would be appreciated although no admission will be charged. Come join in what is sure to become an annual classic in the Gay community.

Typeetting donated by Bay Area Typesetting

COMM. SOFTBALL LEAGUE

RODRIGUE SOTO

Hunkies on a Roll

Take a look at the standings, and it is quite clear the Community Softball League has a front runner, and it's Mark Gordon's Hot n' Hunky. This team was brand new last year and barely lost the 1983 Championship to Norm Smith's Village. With the addition of a few new players, as well as the returning veterans of last year, this team has its act together. The key to any good softball team is pitching, and they have the classy Richard Snow, as well as Mark Gordon. The most impressive player on the team is James Conellois, who is a rookie batting .750 and making the catch of the day against the fence. James also hit three homeruns and one triple. Hot n' Hunky is not a big hitting team, but they sure can get those singles in the alleys to beat their competitors.

Other outstanding players on this team are Steve McDonnell, Russ Mentz, Russ Zipkin and Bob Ayres. The most impressive thing about this bunch of players is that they have the ability to come from behind and win. For those teams who have to play the Hunkies, you have your work cut out for you as this team wants the 1984 Championship badly. In the rest of the league, it appears every team is capable of beating one another, and it will be a race to the finish of the season.

On Saturday, June 16, the Mighty Ambush, the front runner of the Gay Softball League will play the royalty of San Francisco in a drag softball game at Lang Field at 8 p.m. This game is a fundraiser for patients at Ward 5B and should be a great time. The Ambush will also be in drag and must hit and field with the opposite hand than they normally play with. I am supposed to be the umpire, and I'm definitely wearing a mask, as I'm not sure if I should worry about getting hit by the royalty or the Ambushers.

The CSL wishes to send its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bob Thomas who passed away last week. Bob was a good softball player in both

leagues, and most of all, he was a true gentleman who was well liked by all who knew him.

CSL SCOREBOARD

Nap's	11	Force	3
Everett's	15	Robin	5
Hot & Hunky	14	Force	8
Bunkhouse	11	Everett's	1
Hot & Hunky	11	Rainbow	7
Slow Rush	7	Bunkhouse	6
Jack's	6	Rainbow	5
Cinch	9	Slow Rush	1

CSL STANDINGS

Julie Jordan Division	
Hot & Hunky	8-1
Nap's	4-4

Jack's	4-4
Slow Rush	4-5
Everett's of S.F.	2-5

Bill Chapman Division

Cinch	5-3
Bunkhouse	6-4
Rainbow	4-5
Force	3-4
Rockin Robin	1-6

The games for June 17 are scheduled for Rossi Field:

10:30 a.m. - Rockin Robin/Nap's and Bunkhouse /Jack's

Noon - Bunkhouse/Hot & Hunky and Cinch/Jack's

1:30 p.m. - Rainbow/Slow Rush and Force/Everett's

3:00 p.m. - Rainbow/Everett's and Force/Slow Rush. ■

Bob Thomas June 6, 1984



San Francisco's Gay community lost a treasured friend this past week when Bob Thomas left us. Bob had been ill for the past several months with Hodgkin's disease.

An active member of the current Ambush Softball Team, Bob played many years in the Community Softball League, as well as the Gay Softball League. He had been associated in the past with Twin Peaks Tavern, Sutter's Mill, The Mint, and an All-Star with the 1982 World Champion Pendulum Pirates.

Words are inadequate at this time as we send our condolences to his family and many friends.

Services were handled by the Neptune Society. Long-time friend Skip Anderson requests that those wishing to do so send cash donations in Bob's name to the AIDS Foundation, 54 Tenth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. ■

pearance. If you take the time to look inward at what makes you a contented person and pay attention to that, you probably will find that you come across more attractive — if those inner needs are also met. You look as good as you feel. Working out is healthy if it's not an end unto itself. I tell my class, 'It doesn't matter how you look in class, it's how you feel.' And this is true for life. I think that being Gay — a Gay lifestyle — can be very healthy." I asked Jamie when he came out. He said, "The moment the doctor said, 'It's a boy,'"

"Then I go to my class. I go there early to plan. I like to change the music and get something prepared that's a little bit different. The workout I just described is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday I'll go to dance class and to someone else's — yes, it's true — aerobics class. Most are old friends. I also have part-time job as a waiter at the Waterfront restaurant on Pier 7. My regimen works for me. There's so many things you can do. You could be a runner, swimmer, skip rope, but be consistent and patient," Jamie said.

"A person should have realistic, achievable goals, a clear perspective. And discipline is a major factor. If you do, and you stick with it, there will be greater rewards. Some people try to do too much, but the old saying, 'No pain, no gain,' is just not true. If someone can be disciplined in their workout program of whatever suits their individual needs, they can very likely get control of their lives," Jamie said.

"I see a lot of people who are too concerned with outward ap-

pearance. If you take the time to look inward at what makes you a contented person and pay attention to that, you probably will find that you come across more attractive — if those inner needs are also met. You look as good as you feel. Working out is healthy if it's not an end unto itself. I tell my class, 'It doesn't matter how you look in class, it's how you feel.' And this is true for life. I think that being Gay — a Gay lifestyle — can be very healthy." I asked Jamie when he came out. He said, "The moment the doctor said, 'It's a boy,'"

"Then I go to my class. I go there early to plan. I like to change the music and get something prepared that's a little bit different. The workout I just described is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday I'll go to dance class and to someone else's — yes, it's true — aerobics class. Most are old friends. I also have part-time job as a waiter at the Waterfront restaurant on Pier 7. My regimen works for me. There's so many things you can do. You could be a runner, swimmer, skip rope, but be consistent and patient," Jamie said.

"A person should have realistic, achievable goals, a clear perspective. And discipline is a major factor. If you do, and you stick with it, there will be greater rewards. Some people try to do too much, but the old saying, 'No pain, no gain,' is just not true. If someone can be disciplined in their workout program of whatever suits their individual needs, they can very likely get control of their lives," Jamie said.

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pearance. If you take the time to look inward at what makes you a contented person and pay attention to that, you probably will find that you come across more attractive — if those inner needs are also met. You look as good as you feel. Working out is healthy if it's not an end unto itself. I tell my class, 'It doesn't matter how you look in class, it's how you feel.' And this is true for life. I think that being Gay — a Gay lifestyle — can be very healthy." I asked Jamie when he came out. He said, "The moment the doctor said, 'It's a boy,'"

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RUNNING

Getting Started

BUD BUDLONG

Knowing that you could be healthier next year because you started running this year isn't much help when it comes to getting started. One of the greatest fears beginning runners have is that of looking foolish: wrong clothes, wrong shoes, wrong technique, wrong body. Nine years ago, when I began running, I was so embarrassed that I started running indoors, not at the "Y" but in my apartment. I ran from the living room to the dining room, through the kitchen and the front hall, round and round, every day for over a month.

When I got up the nerve to run outside it was in long pants, long sleeves, and before daylight. Fear of running with a group was worse. It took 10 months from the time I decided to run with the Lavender U Joggers until I did it. The first time I ran with them, the group gradually pulled away, leaving me dead last. Gardner Pond stopped and waited for me to catch up. He ran slowly with me then walked alongside when I couldn't run any more. Did they all laugh and say I was a terrible runner? No, they said they were glad I was there and asked me to come back. I did!

If running alone is your preference, that's fine. But it isn't necessary to train or get into shape before running with a group. Once you have decided to begin running, a group can help

you avoid making discouraging mistakes and can provide the encouragement necessary to help you stick with it.

All of the Gay and Lesbian running clubs that I know of list support of beginners as a high priority. At a recent workout session of the San Francisco Track and Field Team, Dex Reynolds explained that some of their members ran track in school while others are new to running. All are encouraged to train at their own pace. Informed instruction and coaching is provided. Their all-comers meet in September will have many age divisions and will stress personal achievement.

I LOVE A PARADE

Parade visitors who run have a treat in store this year. Thursday, June 21, at 6 p.m., S.F. Track and Field Team will have a practice session at the McAteer High School track. Also on the 21st at 6 p.m., FrontRunners will meet at McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park. Saturday, June 23, at 10 a.m., FrontRunners meets at the unpaved parking lot east of the toll plaza for a Golden Gate Bridge run. Sunday, June 24, FrontRunners will have a pre-parade run at 10 a.m. from the Van Ness Avenue steps of City Hall.

A directory of fifteen FrontRunners clubs nationwide is available from the club. Gay



John Lorenzini (l.), Paul Castro, and Dan Turner (r.) get ready for the Bay to Breakers race as Konstantin Berland cheers them on. (Photo: Rink)

Pride races will be held in Portland and San Diego on June 17, and New York on June 24. Gay Run '84 will be on Sunday, July 8, at 9 a.m. in Golden Gate Park. Applications are available at local sporting goods stores.

structured Huntington Falls. You'll find many runners here at all times of day. This is a good location for women runners to find running partners.

RUNNING TIP FOR JUNE

When you begin running, measure your route in time, not distance. This method will encourage you to vary your route each time, which is part of the fun of running. The objective of aerobic exercise is to improve the body's capacity to assimilate oxygen. This is done by raising the pulse rate through exercise and sustaining it at the elevated

rate. Af 15- to 20-minute run (after the pulse is elevated) every other day is all that is necessary to develop a basic level of aerobic fitness. ■

Wanna Box?

If you are interested in any phase of the boxing world, a new boxing club is forming in the Bay Area. The group is meeting to workout, train, spar, do endurance calisthenics and organize. For more information call A-1 Rick Plumbing and Construction, 347-2246 or 457-4229. ■

CORNER POCKET

GENE MILLER

Chua: MVP Champ DeLuxe Stuns Febe's

The Stallion Stampede's Dave Chua stroked his way to the top last Saturday at the San Francisco Pool Association's Spring Most Valuable Player tournament, held at Macante's. This is Dave's fourth season, after migrating to SF from Alameda. He's been a Stallion player since the start, and when he beat Carl Arguello 3-1 to wrap it up undefeated, he achieved his first league tournament victory.

"I knew I had a good chance when I beat Eddie Sprott in the third match," Dave told me afterwards. "It's always been the third match where I blew it, but when I got past Eddie, I knew I could go all the way." His win is no fluke, and anyone who was at Macantes would agree. He rarely missed. Lauren Ward finished third, E.Z. was fourth.

Toni Macante, a genuine pool buff and a good player, recently added the second pool table, and her spacious bar proved to be the ideal setting for the daytime contest — with the mellow sounds of KJAZ most of the way, everybody in a good mood, no hassles or disputes, sunlight beaming through the windows, a round of drinks on the house . . . we departed in hopes that more league events will be held at Toni's friendly 17th & Capp location. One disappointment: only 14 of a possible 36 turned out for the event, the league's only major tournament with no sponsorship.

SFPA DROPS COORS

California Beverage/Coors had sponsored the first two MVP tournaments, but due to the Company's demonstrated

anti-Gay leanings (support of Jerry Falwell & friends), SFPA President Dennis Hall is preparing a letter to California Beverage stating that the league will no longer accept sponsorship money associated with Coors.

TROCADERO SUES LEAGUE FOR \$4,000.00

The January party/awards affair at Trocadero Transfer was a financial bomb, and the fallout has settled in the form of a \$4,000 lawsuit with the league as defendant. The dispute is presently in litigation, and the league has formally denied all charges.

DELUXE RIPS FEBE'S

The SFPA Spring championship is underway, a best-of-three match format which saw DeLuxe recover from an 0-3 deficit to win 9 games in a row at the opening match held at DeLuxe June 5. A stunned Febe's, famous for comebacks, hopes to rebound and retain their status as City Champs; the second match, another race to 9, will be history as you read this, but the third match, if necessary, will be at DeLuxe June 19.

Personally, Tuesday's match was an unwelcomed and eminently forgettable milestone: it was the first time I played a match without winning a game.

From the SFPA calendar: The Hi-Lo tournament at the Arena July 3; party/awards presentation Chaps July 7; West Coast Challenge San Diego July 13-15; Rules & Policy Meeting with (count em) 9 proposals to vote upon at Amelias July 17; Fall registration and draw for divisions July 24; opening night August 14.



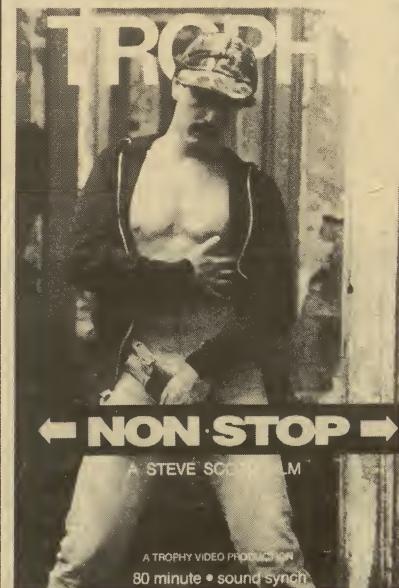
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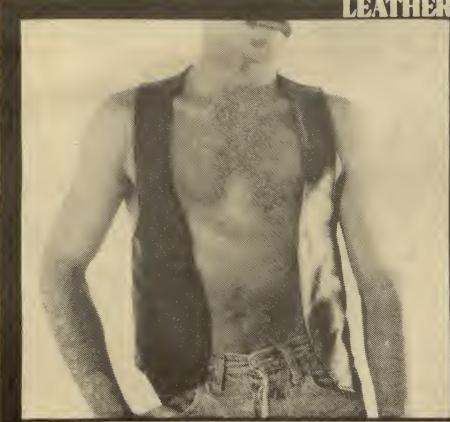
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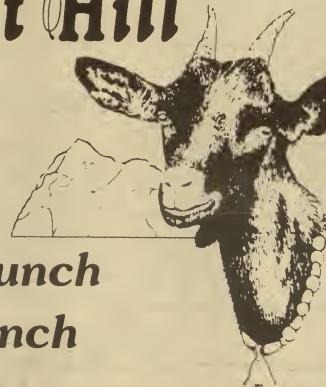
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CLOSED MONDAYS

SWEET LIPS SEZ . . .

Of Joe Spano, Softball and Cycles

DICK WALTERS

Joe Spano, star of *Hill Street Blues*, is now doing a stage appearance in San Francisco at the Alcazar Theatre on Geary (near Googie's) in *Welcome to Transylvania* . . . which is truly a hilarious comedy and it should not be missed . . . dark on Monday evenings.

The 4th Annual 50 km Scenic Bicycle Challenge through the streets of San Francisco is Sunday, July 1. It is called *Le Tour de San Francisco '84*. Applications are available at San Francisco Cyclery, 858 Stanyan St.

Quote from Fang: "Curtis aka Ms. Thing, can't get a health card at Sutter's Mill . . . thank God she doesn't get any sex either." I don't believe it, Curtis, and thanks for getting me loaded last Wednesday at the popular Sutter's Mill that will soon be opening its own "cabaret" in the lower level . . . hi Harry.

Note to the *Voice* from Jose . . . Michelle is the reigning Czarina de Castro and not an Empress. You did look hot the night of *La Cage aux Folles*, Michelle.

Thank you for your nice note, Trixie of the Mint, and I am glad the Tricycle Race was such

a great success.

Have you seen the Kokpit's new stained glass logo done by the talented Jimmy? Really a great work of art . . . so if you are interested in having any stained glass work done, contact Jimmy at the Kokpit, 775-3260.

Hope you all have a very nice Father's Day this Sunday, and don't forget to take your favorite "Daddy" out to brunch, preferably at Lenny Mollet's popular Chez Mollet, and dine in the garden patio and enjoy a delicious brunch.

Ms. Pat Bond is in Portland, Oregon this Saturday playing Hick, the story of Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt . . . knock 'em dead, Pat.

Bob Cramer and his Peter, Happy Birthday Peter, were in Portland this past weekend for a Knights of Malta shindig. Hope you had a nice rest after

the hectic work of putting on *La Cage aux Folles*, which we all enjoyed.

Remember the 24th is the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, so come on out and join in the fun, but remember to be careful in your frivolity. Lots of events are planned at different spots for that day, so go and enjoy.

Welcome home Cha Cha, after your five-week sojourn in the Midwest . . . aren't you proud of Googie's team for winning two games while you were away? Don't forget that Friday the 15th at Grace Cathedral is the kick-off concert for Gay Freedom Week, with tickets at \$7.50 and \$12.50 featuring the S.F. Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps., the S.F. Lesbian and Gay Chorus and the S.F. Gay Men's Chorus, with the great organ of the Cathedral. This takes place at 8 p.m.

Saturday the Ambush softball team will play the Royal Family at 8 p.m., at Lang Field (Turk and Gough) in a benefit for Ward 5B. It's the First Annual Drag Softball Game presented by the Ambush — everyone will play in drag — so don't miss it!

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

It was man-to-man sports and then man-to-man talks. It was mainly deportment and carriage. Though I flunked all the tests, I got out nonetheless, Graduating to man-to-man marriage.

— Woolly

SCOREBOARD

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES

TEAM STANDINGS AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

(League averages are not available)

TUESDAY LEAGUE

(Week 2 of 17 - as of 5/29/84)

1. Rude Prudes	7	1
2. Oh Merde!	7	1
3. Mixed Company	6	2
4. Number 10	5	3
5. Number 7	4½	3½
6. Hot Rollers	4	4
7. Ethel	4	4
8. Trolley Dollys	4	4
9. Number 14	4	4
10. Number 4	4	4
11. Hopeless	2½	5½
12. Ms. Fitts	2	6

13. Chiquita's Bananas

1 7

14. No Wire Hangers

1 7

18. Number 18

0 12

THURSDAY LEAGUE

(Week 3 of 16 - as of 5/31/84)

1. J.P. Stars & Strikes	10	2
2. Number 9	9	2
3. D.D. Ryders	8	4
4. Number 1	6	6
5. Spare Parts	6	6
6. Old Rick's Gold Room	6	6
7. Number 5	6	6
8. Pendulum I	4	8
9. Number 10	4	8
10. Vagabond	1	11

FRIDAY LEAGUE

(Week 1 of 16 - as of 6/01/84)

1. P.J. & The Bears	4	0
2. Number 5	2	2
3. Number 6	2	2
4. Number 2	2	2
5. Number 1	2	2
6. Number 4	0	4

G.T.F. TEAM TENNIS

LES BALMAIN

On to Round Six

The mid-point of the Gay Tennis Federation's round-robin play in Team Tennis was completed this past weekend. Nella/Schmidt Insurance, regaining the lead from Community Rentals, moved back into first place. The team's big win over Roto Rooter, 52-35, and Community Rentals' close win over Gay Sports, 43-40, resulted in a six-game margin lead for Nella/Schmidt. Other results of Round Five were: Atlas Savings edged Ivy's 46-40, and The Bear downed The Pilsner Inn 46-38. The Team Tennis Standings as of June 3 are:

1. Nella/Schmidt Insurance	188	146	.563
2. Community Rentals	188	152	.553
3. The Bear	181	153	.542
4. Atlas Savings	219	190	.535
5. Ivy's	168	160	.512
6. Roto Rooter	199	212	.484
7. The White Swallow	145	179	.448
8. Gay Sports	174	218	.444
9. The Pilsner Inn	178	230	.436

Round Six is scheduled as follows: Saturday, June 16, 9 a.m. - White Swallow vs. Gay Sports; and 11:30 a.m. - Nella/Schmidt vs. Atlas. Sunday, June 17, 9 a.m. - Community Rentals vs. Pilsner Inn; and 11:30 a.m. - Ivy's vs. The Bear. Roto Rooter draws a bye.

L. Balmain

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Tail of Another City

Taking Liberties with Leather Fraternity

A 'Let Them Eat Cock' Attitude at International Mr. Leather Contest

by Duke J. Armstrong

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. It was the spring of pride; it was the winter of exploitation. It was the apex of camaraderie; it was the nadir of courtesy. It was the triumph of concept; it was the tragedy of organization. It was the 1984 International Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago over Memorial Day weekend.



Ron Moore, International Mr. Leather 1984. (Photo: IML Studios)

The Sunday evening pageant was flawless. From the opening patriotism of the National Anthem to the closing majesty of the awards presentation, the evening was an audience delight, a riveting piece of bravado and showmanship. The Gay community is blessed with a plethora of popularity contests, beauty pageants, and assorted title competitions, but none can compare with the grandeur of the International Mr. Leather contest. In stature and size it is the Daddy of them all.

Ron Moore, representing Men of Leather from Denver, Colorado, took the honor this year, as well he should have. A hunky Black with a fetching smile, a perfect pair of BB's (bubble buns), and a winning personality, he was the favorite of both the crowd and the judges.

Second and third places went to San Franciscans. Michael Merriott, representing the Arena, took first runner-up and Jake Banks, Mr. Leather San

Francisco, was the second runner-up. They both represented our community with class, as did Glen Terrio from the S.F. Eagle and Peter Todd from Chaps.

The spirit and energy of the contest was not otherwise carried through. The rest of the weekend, organizationally, was a disaster. Event organizer and Gold Coast owner Chuck Renslow was seemingly out to bilk the community, not to serve or promote it.

The \$50 per person "weekend package" was a total rip-off. It contained little of value, except admission to the show. It did not include a transit guide, a map showing the location of Chicago's Gay bars, or a list of suggested restaurants. Absolutely nothing was done to facilitate the stay of all those hundreds of leather men who had come from around the country—and the world—for the events.

Other than the pageant, there were no events. Nothing had been organized except to hang

around the Gold Coast all day and night to fatten Mr. Renslow's pockets. Two locations of the Gold Coast were open, but neither was adequately staffed and both were running out of beer.

The worst exploitation of the weekend came Sunday afternoon during pre-judging interviews and competition at Man's Country (a bathhouse also owned by Renslow). Most of the contestants had come from hundreds and thousands of miles away, and it was their presence and their spirit which made the contest possible. Renslow's employees charged the contestants \$10 each just for a suitable space to store their belongings while they went through required pre-judging. It was the height of shabbiness.

And everyone knew it. Perhaps that is what brought people together: a shared sense of indignation. After stoically enduring the egregious mismanagement and bald greed of Renslow and Associates for two days, everyone turned away in disgust, to share among themselves. The human spirit is irrepressible, and Gays have a remarkable ability to transcend unpleasantness and to have a good time even under the worst of circumstances. People began sharing cabs, pointing out restaurants, taking each other's pictures, bunching up on drink orders, lending clothes, laughing about the inconveniences—and going to the one leather bar in town not owned by Chuck Renslow.

That was the Touche, on North Lincoln, owned by Chuck Rodecker. Touche was the only place where one could find a sense of community. Rodecker and all his bartenders (particularly Little David upstairs) were friendly and helpful. The bar furnished a free continental breakfast all day both Saturday and Sunday. That was in addition to a Sunday afternoon barbecue. It, too, was gratis, with

(Continued on page 35)



Ron Moore (c.), International Mr. Leather 1984; Michael Merriott (r.), first runner-up; and Jake Banks (l.), second runner-up, share the winners' platform with a leather queen. (Photo: IML Studios).

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BLACK LASHES

Race to Oblivion

KARL STEWART



There are some very relieved folks around town these days. The incredible Desiree and the Ramshead's Tony have been elected to the throne of King and Queen of Hearts of S.F. after a grueling six-week campaign.

Sunday, Rich and Remy hosted a warm and lovely Mr. and Miss Gay Coronation. Considering Trixie and Michael were elected by 75 people in the Eagle patio last year, the glittering full house at Gal Club was a real tribute to a year well served. The entertainment was from

a major belly dance to "Red Hot Momma." The Men's Room's Dorothy Duster led the audience in a conga line, and the Cheater's baby, Jim Christakes as Christina, pulled in MC members in a musical comedy version of "Yellow Polka Dot Bikini." Stiff competition.

For her motherly advice and wonderful good humor, the girls awarded Francesca Miss Congeniality. Best Costume was given to Samantha Fox as designed by Danny Espinoza with Lily Ponds winning the talent

especially to himself) winner was Christina in another Danny E. gown of green satin and black organza. This was also his first time in drag. This event was such a success that Phoebe, Ed, and production crew are eyeing the Cow Palace for next year.

Another title, another show: congratulations to Emperor de Motorcycling Gary Kenyon and our new Empress Judy Leonard. Chaps was host to that bout a couple of weeks ago, and from reports Lashes hears the "women" and "men" got along just fine once the ice melted a bit. Nice to see the Gay and Lesbian community of So/M moving closer together.

More and further contests: Doggy Show in Castro was quite amazing. The beef on the hoof was mouth watering. Princes Imperial Sissy Spaceout entered Space Dog in an outfit that only she or Sister Woman would consider wearing in public. The



Newly crowned Mr. and Miss Gay San Francisco, Bruce and Parkay (l.). (Photo: Rink)

all parts of the realm: Trinity Lane gave us a very sexy torch song "Love for Sale." The real fun started when Ken and Sable offered "She's an Angel," a musical comedy sketch complete with giant props such as bells and stars. Of the candidates entertaining, Vern Stewart came through with a sassy "No Bad News," starring Sharon and a male chorus line straight from the Eagle. Our favorite break-dancing white woman, Sister Woman, brought the house down with her bright, live comedy. Also a fresh new look for Margo Moore on stage. We even saw Empress Remy dishing up "All that Jazz."

This year we will look to SFGDI's Parkay and Imperial Sec/State Bruce Harrelson, the newly elected Mr. & Miss Gay SF, to carry on the superb work Michael and Trixie began.

Tributes also go to Phoebe P. Planters for one of the most festive events of the year. The Amazon Girl Contest last Saturday was a hoot. The three heats brought leisure wear, talent competition and evening gowns. It's hard to imagine nine million sequins on one queen, but Francesca's gown managed to resemble a very large body of stars . . . like a milky way. Between her, Sophie, Amazon and Naomi del Rey, the dressing room was as much fun as the show which clipped right along at a professional pace.

Some clever and original talent: Diedre Hopper-Parsons laid a fresh layer of dish on the crowd as she quipped with live gossip/comedy. Flo of the Village wrote her own version of "A Pretty Girl" and Naomi gave us

laurel for his vocal dance with Mozart. Ever see a seven-foot drag queen executing baritone vibrato??

Third runner-up was the DQL (surprised the hell out of Lashes, but she was good). Second runner-up, all the way from planet 32 and Empress of Sonoma County was Sophie. Crown Princess (if you will) is Amazon, and the surprise (I'm sure,

top dog was Roger Osland's pup this year. Sharon on the mike was her usual sassy self.

Further and More Contests: The GSL mounted its annual talent show last Saturday eve. Word is that Rookies' South Pacific revisted was a real hit. "We ain't got drag" isn't exactly an original lyric, but the moving set and audience made this one special.

(Continued on next page)



The winners of the Uniform Contest at the Eagle last weekend. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

(Continued from previous page)

Not that there wasn't anything else to do. Saturday also saw Maud's turn 18 years old. The Emperor and Empress were joined in a visit there by Bobby Wong (as in Phoenix UC), in drag, and he nearly got picked up by one of the real girls. He left on his mustashes. There's one more for the scrap book.

POLK STRASSE, USA

The kids have made the Renegade Dance Bar on Polk near Sacramento one of the haunts to hit. Thursday night is strip night . . . both professionals and amateur alike get up there, some even provocative. Eddy Lewellan, the manager, welcomes one and all to dance on their huge disco floor.

Down the street, Kimo's staff and crew with the aid of hordes of well-wishers, celebrated his birthday with a luau fit for a king. One of the more interesting presents was a petition-style suggestion directed to the Tavern Guild urging its members to nominate and elevate Kimo as its next Prez . . . a movement started by Shield of the Roadrunner. Grass roots politics on Polk Street. Russ Glen, owner of the White Swallow and the current TG Prez, happened to stop by with greetings just as Tim presented the letter of encouragement to Kimo. Russ would be running unopposed.

Mamma Billy out did himself on a "super Hawaiian" buffet — that's lots of fresh fruit served with Italian salad, German potato salad, English/India meat balls, Mexican turkey tacos and Israeli baby hot dogs in bagel buns. You get the picture. Of course, the bar's favorite daughter, Marlena, MC'd the show.



Amazon Girl contest winner Christina (r.) with the contest's creator, Danny (Photo: Rink)

Mr. Leather Contest

(Continued from page 33)

draft beer all day only a quarter. Chuck Rodecker is a kind, generous sort of person, as different from Chuck Renslow as their names are similar. Rodecker obviously did not make a lot of money over the weekend, but he did make a lot of friends and he did help a lot of visitors to feel at home and to get by during their stay. On a personal level that was more important than any flashiness at the Gold Coast or Park West.

Among out-of-towners, Coulter Thomas (1983 International Mr. Leather) and his morganatic spouse, Charlie, stood above it all to symbolize the best of the leather community. They

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, June 14: J.B. Rosen's presents Artwork by Stephan, reception 135 Fourth St., Santa Rosa, CA, 6 to 9 p.m.

Reflex, Bob Stuart Murphy's Dance Theatre, The Loft, 301 8th St., #202 (at Folsom), 8:30 p.m. Tickets at Headlines \$10 (also 6/15)

Bare Chest Contest, Arena, 9 p.m. Mr. July for 1985 calendar.

Friday, June 15: Speakeasy, SFGDI Run, Lake Edson, Appl'n Febe's, \$60. Includes food, booze and much fun.

Saturday, June 16: Back In Grace, concert: SFGFD Marching Band & TC, and SF Gay Men's Chorus & SF Lesbian/Gay Chorus, Grace Cathedral, 8 p.m., \$12.50 and \$7.50 (adv.), \$13.50 and \$8.50 at the door. Tickets at BASS and Headlines. Concert dedicated to John Sims. ■

Sunday, July 15 will mark the New Bell's 15th anniversary, David Kelsey's 10th and Pure Trash's 5th. Big party that day. Why hasn't David been thanked yet for not only carrying the musical intersection of the La Cage reception at City Hall, but ending up doing all the MC'ing while certain "organizers" sipped champagne with the stars in the VIP suite?

LIFE IN THE FRAT LANE

July 4th, The FLU (First Ladies Union) and the MC/UC Presidents will host "A Star Spangled Salute to the Fourth of July" at the SF Eagle from 3 to 6 p.m. at a cost of \$6. This beer bust will include show, food and a Mr. Liberty Contest.

Don Ramon's and Doug hosted a tasty roast beef birthday supper for Doug's lover Hunk-of-the-month Zack. The small group of friends were treated to a revue of "Sexual Dimension" a "clinical" pictorial manual discussing big dicks. The guests included "Bootblack" Keith Kusky,

First Annual Ambush Softball Drag Game, Ambush-Wackers vs. Royal Family, Lang Field (Gough and Turk) 8 p.m. Raffle, \$5 donation to benefit Ambush softball team.

Sunday, June 17: Arena Beer Bust, 3 to 7 p.m., \$3, all the draft beer you can drink.

Golden Gate Troops Beer Bust, SF Eagle, 3 to 6 p.m., \$6. Includes food, beer, Uniform Contest — law enforcement, military and other. Prizes. Art Opening, Chaps, 3 to 6 p.m.

Jock Strap Contest, End Up, 7 p.m. Judges: cast of Blue Fish Cove, MC Diamond John and Randy Johnson.

Monday, June 18: Eats at the Eagle, serving from 6:30 p.m.

Sutter's Showroom Premiere, Val Diamond, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19: Sutter's Showroom, Ralph Michaels and Friends, 6 p.m. ■

Chaps bartender Michael Woldridge, and a youthful looking Dr. Dub in the company of his hot buddy, Rick Booth, aka Mr. Rubber.

The Stables has sadly given up the ghost. Rick and Steve closed the door last week and the bar is now in escrow. Rick lamented, "We hoped we made a dent in the community. We thank our staff and the thousands of customers for three years of fun." The new owners have been quoted as saying that they will clean the joint up and expand (?). Lashes is assured that they will carry on the So/M tradition. Now Rick and Steve can start eating meat for dinner instead of beans.

Another show to consider is the John Kass Show at Club 181 at 181 Eddy, June 27 and 28 at 9 p.m. Featured among the performers will be Danny Williams, Desirée, Joe Tolbe and Lee De Laria with Jeanine Strobel.

Look to the stars, walk on the turf and see ya in the skins! ■

K. Stewart

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